



June 16, 2020

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Chair
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2164 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves,

On behalf of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, which serves approximately 120,000 people a day with bus, rail and paratransit services throughout Northeast Ohio, we join the American Public Transportation Association in expressing our strong support for H.R. 7095, the "Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act" (INVEST in America Act).

It is critical that we invest in surface transportation infrastructure and support this initiative, which includes \$105 billion for public transportation. Our hope at the GCRTA, which is the only transit system in the state of Ohio with rail, is that our aging rail infrastructure will benefit from the significant increase in Capital and State of Good Repair funding.

Additionally, the bill provides a long-term vision to address the more than \$100 billion state-of-good repair backlog in public transit infrastructure to meet the mobility demands of people all across this nation. Meeting that need is specifically critical in our region.

In fact, in Greater Cleveland alone, our infrastructure backlog exceeds \$400 million and continues to grow.

For public transit to continue to provide essential services, whether during the COVID-19 pandemic, or for any day in the future, GCRTA must provide safe, reliable, and clean service and that can happen only if we maintain a state-of-good repair.

We look forward to working collaboratively with you and the entire Northeast Ohio congressional delegation as this bill advances through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Floun'say R. Caver, Ph.D
Acting General Manager,
Chief Executive Officer

Mayor Dennis M. Clough
President
RTA Board of Trustees

cc: Honorable Sherrod C. Brown
Honorable Marcia L. Fudge
Honorable David P. Joyce

Honorable Rob J. Portman
Honorable Anthony E. Gonzalez
Honorable Marcy C. Kaptur