



**AMERICAN  
PUBLIC  
TRANSPORTATION  
ASSOCIATION**

March 22, 2017

To the Members of the United States Congress:

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**PRESIDENT & CEO**

Richard A. White

On behalf of the more than 1,500 member organizations of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), I write to share our opposition to several troubling proposals included in the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 "skinny" budget blueprint that would eliminate existing public transportation infrastructure programs that enjoy bipartisan support.

Specifically, the budget blueprint requests that Congress phase out the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program for new capacity and expansion (New Starts, Small Starts and Core Capacity) projects. Although it proposes to honor existing, signed grant agreements, the blueprint suggests the U.S. Department of Transportation will not sign additional grant agreements for the 55 projects already in the planning pipeline, and ultimately phase out the program. A list of projects that would be at risk if the administration declines to sign any additional grant agreements is enclosed for your reference.

The blueprint also proposes eliminating funding for the TIGER grant program and operating support for Amtrak's long-distance routes. Also troubling is the proposal to cut the Transit Security Grant Program, which supports anti-terror efforts in and around public transit systems, by 25 percent.

The role of the federal government is key to facilitating safe and efficient surface transportation, including public transportation, and transit enhances our economic competitiveness. Nearly 90 percent of public transportation trips directly benefit the economy by getting people to work and connecting them to local businesses.

Congress reaffirmed this federal role when it authorized \$2.3 billion annually, through 2020, for the CIG program in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, which was overwhelmingly approved by bipartisan votes of 83-16 in the Senate and 359-65 in the House of Representatives. Eliminating this program in the middle of the authorization would pull the rug out from under communities that have spent local, state and federal resources advancing their projects through the CIG process with the expectation that Congress would make good on the commitment made to this program by the FAST Act.

The FAST Act also reaffirmed Congressional support for Amtrak and authorized nearly \$5.5 billion through 2020 for Amtrak's National Network, which includes operating support for long-distance routes that move more than 4 million passengers each year on its 15 routes covering 23 states. Further, the FAST Act introduced new accounting, administrative and managerial reforms to ensure that these dollars are spent efficiently, and these measures should be given time to be fully implemented and evaluated before further changes are considered.

Additionally, in recognition of TIGER's huge popularity, Congress routinely funds this program at more than \$500 million annually, which is oversubscribed and supports important multimodal projects that do not always lend themselves to the traditional formula funding programs. The TIGER grant program has supported critical infrastructure projects in communities of all sizes around the country and should be preserved.

Lastly, America's transportation infrastructure has long been a top target for terrorists seeking to attack the U.S. homeland. In recognition of that threat, Congress routinely appropriates funding for the Transit Security Grant Program (\$86 million in FY 2016) to assist local communities secure this critical infrastructure. Cutting this important program would put systems and riders around the country at risk.

We urge you to strongly oppose these proposed funding reductions both as you conclude the FY 2017 appropriations legislation and turn to the FY 2018 budget and appropriations process. We look forward to continuing to work with Congress to support all federal public transportation programs and implement all FAST Act programs at their authorized levels.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard A. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Richard A. White  
Acting President & CEO

Enclosure

<b>State</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Stage of Development</b>	<b>Project Profile</b>
AZ	Flagstaff	Transit Spine BRT	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
AZ	Phoenix	South Central LRT Extension	NSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
AZ	Tempe	Tempe Streetcar	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
CA	Los Angeles	Downtown Streetcar	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
CA	Los Angeles	Westside Purple Line Extension Section 3	NSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
CA	Sacramento	Downtown Riverfront Streetcar Project	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
CA	San Bernardino	Redlands Passenger Rail Project	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
CA	San Carlos	Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project	CCE	<a href="#">PDF</a>
CA	San Francisco	Transbay Corridor Core Capacity Project	CCPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
CA	San Jose	BART Silicon Valley Phase II - Extension to San Jose and Santa Clara	NSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
CA	San Jose	El Camino Real Corridor BRT Project	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
CA	San Rafael	SMART Regional Rail - San Rafael to Larkspur Extension	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
CA	Santa Ana	Santa Ana/Garden Grove Streetcar Project	NSE	<a href="#">PDF</a>
FL	Fort Lauderdale	Central Broward Transit - Phase I	NSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
FL	Fort Lauderdale	Wave Streetcar	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
FL	Jacksonville	First Coast Flyer East Corridor BRT	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
FL	Jacksonville	First Coast Flyer Southwest Corridor BRT	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
FL	Orlando	SunRail Connector to the Orlando International Airport	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
FL	Orlando	SunRail Phase II North	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
FL	St. Petersburg	Central Avenue BRT project	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
IN	Gary-Michigan City	South Shore Line Northwest Indiana Connectivity Plan	CCPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
IN	Indianapolis	Red Line All-Electric BRT	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
IN	Lake County	West Lake Corridor Project	NSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
LA	Baton Rouge	TramLinkBR Streetcar	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>

MD	Maryland	National Capital Purple Line	NSE	<a href="#">PDF</a>
MI	Grand Rapids	Laker Line BRT	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
MI	Lansing	Michigan Avenue/Grand River Avenue BRT	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
MN	Minneapolis	METRO Blue Line Extension	NSE	<a href="#">PDF</a>
MN	Minneapolis	METRO Orange Line BRT	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
MN	Minneapolis	Southwest LRT	NSE	<a href="#">PDF</a>
MO	Kansas City	Prospect MAX	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
NC	Chapel Hill	North-South Bus Rapid Transit Project	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
NC	Durham	Durham-Orange LRT Project	NSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
NJ-NY	Secaucus	Hudson Tunnel Project	NSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
NJ	Hudson County	Portal North Bridge Project	NSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
NM	Albuquerque	Rapid Transit Project	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
NV	Reno	Virginia Street BRT Extension	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
NY	Albany	River Corridor/Blue Line Bus Rapid Transit	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
NY	Albany	Washington/Western Bus Rapid Transit Line	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
NY	New York	Canarsie Line Power and Station Improvements	CCPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
NY	New York	Second Avenue Subway Phase 2	NSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
NY	New York	Woodhaven Boulevard Select Bus Service	NSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
OR	Portland	Powell-Division Transit and Development	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
TX	Dallas	CBD Second Light Rail Alignment (D2)	CCPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
TX	Dallas	DART Red and Blue Line Platform Extensions	CCPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
TX	El Paso	Montana RTS Corridor	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
VA	Alexandria	West End Transitway	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
WA	Everett	Swift II BRT	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
WA	Seattle	Federal Way Link Extension	NSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
WA	Seattle	Lynnwood Link Extension	NSE	<a href="#">PDF</a>

WA	Seattle	Madison Street Corridor Bus Rapid Transit	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
WA	Seattle	Seattle Streetcar Center City Connector	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
WA	Spokane	Spokane Central City Line	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
WA	Tacoma	Tacoma Link Expansion	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>
WI	Milwaukee	East-West Bus Rapid Transit	SSPD	<a href="#">PDF</a>