



AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

**TRANSIT BOARD MEMBERS COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE**

**JW Marriott Hotel • Washington, DC • Rayburn Room
Sunday, March 12, 2017 • 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.**

(NOTE: The APTA Legislative Committee meeting will take place from 10:00a – noon in Salons III and IV prior to the TBM Legislative Subcommittee meeting. Please attend)

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome and Introductions – Kevin Holzendorf, Chair, APTA Transit Board Members Legislative Subcommittee**
- 2) Update from Legislative Committee**
 - **Federal Funding – FY2017 and FY2018**
 - **Potential Infrastructure Initiative**
 - **Highway Trust Fund Solvency**
- 3) Upcoming Transit Board Members and Board Support Seminar**
 - **Planning for Legislative Session**
- 4) Board Member Involvement**
 - **Locally**
 - **Within APTA**
- 5) Questions and Answers**
- 6) Adjourn**

Attachments:

- **APTA Board-approved Infrastructure Initiative Recommendations**
- **First 100 Days of New Congress and Administration Toolkit**

Invest in Public Transportation for a Stronger America

Infrastructure Initiative Recommendations Approved by APTA's Board of Directors



AMERICAN
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ASSOCIATION

***The American Public Transportation Association
Urges the Trump Administration and
Congress to Dramatically Increase the
Current Federal Investment Levels in Support of
the Nation's Public Transportation
and Intercity Passenger Rail Systems***



- The cornerstone of President Donald Trump's economic blueprint is to revitalize and expand America's infrastructure.
- Investments in the nation's public transportation infrastructure are critical for economic growth and make the U.S. more competitive in international markets. They create jobs, produce a safer, more efficient transportation system, connect people with jobs and employers with potential workers, and support national priorities.
- APTA strongly supports the proposals to rehabilitate, revitalize and expand the nation's public transportation infrastructure and improve transportation options for all Americans.
- Residential and commercial real estate values increase when such properties are located near good, high-frequency public transportation service.
- APTA urges the Trump Administration and Congress to dramatically increase the current federal investment levels in support of the nation's public transportation and intercity passenger rail systems.
- This increased federal investment in public transportation and intercity passenger rail systems is an essential strategy to sustain and enhance the United States' global economic competitiveness and complements the unprecedented contributions already made by states and local governments to operate and maintain these services.
- The U.S. Department of Transportation has identified a backlog of nearly \$90 billion in capital investments needed to bring bus and rail systems into a state of good repair, although other estimates suggest this number is higher.
- Increased investment should support the replacement of aging and over-age equipment with more modern buses, trains, and facilities, and address the growing demand, in communities of all sizes throughout the country, for new and expanded rail, ferryboat, and bus capacity.

RECOMMENDED PROGRAM PRINCIPLES FOR A NEW/ ENHANCED FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE – PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL

- A national focus on revitalizing our infrastructure requires significant federal investment as its foundation. Dedicated and sustained funding must be a federal priority to achieve the goal of renewing and expanding our nation's public transportation systems and assuring America's competitiveness.
- A new Federal Infrastructure Initiative should complement and utilize programs authorized under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act).
- A new Federal Infrastructure Initiative should allow for accelerated review and approval processes to speed project delivery and better leverage federal resources.
- APTA supports public and private finance tools and welcomes the opportunity to work with the Trump Administration and Congress to foster private participation in project financing and delivery in the public interest.
- APTA urges the Trump Administration and Congress to provide sustained and dedicated revenues to ensure the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund and the surface transportation programs it funds.
- Investment should also include funds for innovative mobility, workforce development and research that will encourage utilizing advanced technologies to position the nation's transportation infrastructure for the future.
- Investments should create new jobs, inclusion, shared prosperity and private sector growth.

Program Elements: State of Good Repair and Capacity Investments:

- Provide increased funding for existing rail state of good repair program.
- Provide increased funding for existing bus and bus facilities program (distribution under current formula/ discretionary programs).
- Provide increased funding for all existing transit formula programs based on current proportions to meet needs in every community.
- Provide increased funding for new capacity projects.
- Provide increased funding for Intercity Passenger Rail (including PTC eligibility).
- Provide increased funding for Workforce Development & Research.
- Create a new competitive grant program for capital Bus and Rail State of Good Repair, and other capacity expansion projects.



ABOUT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION (APTA)

APTA is a nonprofit international association of 1,500 public and private sector organizations that are involved in the planning, building and operation of all modes of public transportation – bus, paratransit, light and commuter rail, intercity and high-speed passenger rail, subways and ferries. APTA members serve the public interest by providing safe, efficient and economical transit services and products.

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WHERE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GOES
COMMUNITY GROWS

The First 100 Days of the New Administration and Congress

Overview

The Trump Administration and the new Congress have begun the process of crafting legislative policies and goals for the year. President Trump has talked about a major infrastructure initiative involving as much as \$1 trillion in investment.

Congress is expected to have an ambitious agenda on a variety of issues, possibly including major tax reform, overhaul of the Affordable Care Act, immigration policy, and federal infrastructure programs.

There have also been rumors that the incoming Administration might revive an earlier unsuccessful effort to eliminate the federal transit program as part of an FY2018 budget proposal. Late April is the timeframe for the Administration's budget proposal. While this rumor would be inconsistent with the effort to improve our infrastructure, we need to be prepared for all possibilities.

Congress passed the FAST Act in December of 2015, which authorized spending for federal transit, passenger rail, and highway programs, through FY 2020. The FAST Act also provided funding through FY 2020 for public transit and highway programs in the Highway Trust Fund. While the FAST Act provided modest increases in investment, it does not fully address our need to restore the nation's aging public transit and highway systems to a state of good repair. The U.S. Department of Transportation has said we need to invest nearly \$90 billion in the nation's transit systems, just to bring them into a state of good repair.

APTA Member Action

One of the best ways that APTA members can advance the cause for maintaining the current federal transit program and increasing federal investment in that program, is to meet directly with their U.S. Senators and Representatives.

- Make appointments to meet with Congress members in their district offices. Use the information included below, and tell them why and how the federal transit program is important to your transit system or your business. During your meeting, invite them to visit your system or business.
- Meet with Congressional staff. Meetings with staff are helpful too, because that staff will convey your issues and concerns to their boss.
- Also make plans to meet with those elected officials or their staff when you are in Washington, DC for APTA's Annual Legislative Conference in March.

Talking points for First 100 Days

- ✓ **All Americans –Republican and Democrat, rural, suburban and urban, public transportation user and not – benefit from public transportation.**
- ✓ **Strong public transportation makes our economy grow and makes the U.S. more competitive internationally.**
- ✓ **We are in a state of crisis regarding the condition of our infrastructure.**
- ✓ **The new administration and Congress should invest in public transportation as part of an infrastructure bill.**
- ✓ **Public transportation is an integral element of the nation’s transportation system which tens of millions of Americans depend on and it makes the overall system work better.**

APTA has a clear vision for America’s public transportation: it connects us to our jobs and communities. Where public transportation goes, communities grow. This vision is shared by Democrats, Republicans, and independents alike and can be realized with robust investment on the Federal level. That’s why we strongly support Congress and the incoming Administration’s plan to renew America’s investments in our transportation infrastructure in the first 100 days of 2017 and beyond.

We can capitalize on the bipartisan support for investment in transportation by finding creative ways to highlight the individual and community benefits and by ensuring Congress hears directly from us. Congress can act right now to invest in our public transportation infrastructure, supporting our economy and our communities, making commutes safer and more connected.

Below we provided message guidance about the need for investment in public transportation.

- ✓ America's future is bright when we come together to make smart investments, like those in public transportation that connect and grow our communities.
- ✓ The American public - as well as Democratic and Republican Members of Congress - support greater investment in public transportation.

- ✓ Investments in public transportation grow the economy nationwide and create short- and long-term American jobs in fields like construction and manufacturing.
- ✓ There is a strong return on investment for public transportation: for every \$1 invested in public transportation, approximately \$4 is generated in economic returns. It increases real estate values, brings customers to businesses, and makes our communities more connected.
- ✓ There is no reason to wait: The American public, Democratic and Republican Senators and Representatives, as well as the President-elect all agree that we need to invest in America's infrastructure. Congress and President Trump should work together in the first 100 days to pass legislation that invests in our public transportation infrastructure.
- ✓ Local citizens are voting to tax themselves to invest in their public transportation systems. Similar investments on the federal level are essential to maintaining global economic competitiveness.

1. The new Administration and Congress have an opportunity grow our economy and develop our communities by investing in our public transportation infrastructure.
 - a. "Republican and Democratic Members of Congress, in addition to the President-elect, support infrastructure investment. We share this priority and we know we must work together to modernize our aging public transit systems."
2. A bipartisan majority of Americans and Members of Congress support investment in public transportation.
 - a. "Even in our divided political climate, Democrats and Republicans alike agree that we need investment on all levels in public transportation. Nearly 70 percent of voters polled in the presidential election support investment to repair and improve public transportation. And a large majority who voted for Donald Trump also support greater investment, polling at 65 percent. A Congressional victory on the issue can bridge our political divisions and show Americans that Congress is working for us, not against each other."
3. Investing in public transportation grows the economy and creates short and long-term American jobs in fields like construction and manufacturing.
 - a. "When the government invests in public transportation, they are investing in good American jobs. The productivity gains of \$1 billion federal investment result in 50,000 jobs. Having a strong public transportation system not only creates jobs in fields like construction and manufacturing, but also connects people with jobs in their communities and business owners with new consumers."

4. Return on investment for public transportation is high: for every \$1 invested in public transportation, approximately \$4 is generated in economic returns.
 - a. "Public transportation helps our communities prosper. For every \$1 invested in public transportation, communities get \$4 back in economic returns."
5. There is a nearly \$90 billion backlog in deferred maintenance and replacement funds for public transit. At present, the United States is investing \$17.7 billion a year in a public transportation system that needs nearly two and a half times that much.
 - a. The American Society of Civil Engineers slapped the nation's infrastructure with a grade of D+, noting that many structures are falling apart and at risk of failure.
6. Public transportation benefits us all, regardless of whether we use it or not. It makes our communities safer, better connected and stronger economically.
 - a. "From shorter commute times to greater business connectivity, public transportation improves the way our communities work."
 - b. Residential property values perform 42% better on average if they are located near public transportation with high-frequency service.
7. Public transportation unites our communities. It makes our economy run and we depend on it, even if we don't ride public transportation ourselves.
 - a. 87% of public transit trips impact the economy by getting people to work and connecting them to local businesses.