June 15, 2020

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves,

On behalf of Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (MTD), which directly employs more than 220 workers and had over 6.4 million passenger trips in FY 2018-19, we write to thank you for your extraordinary leadership and express MTD's 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).

The INVEST in America Act makes critical investments for surface transportation infrastructure, including $105 billion for public transportation. The bill recognizes the immediate need for public transit agencies to continue to provide essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic and support our nation's economic recovery. It also provides a long-term vision to address the more than $100 billion state-of-good-repair backlog in public transit infrastructure and meet the mobility demands of growing communities, including small urban and rural communities.

This transformative investment in public transportation helps our communities meet growing mobility demands, create family-wage jobs, expand U.S. manufacturing and supply chains, and grow the economy. It also puts us on the path to increase access to opportunities for all Americans and build more equitable communities. In addition, the INVEST in America Act addresses the environmental and sustainability challenges facing our communities, nation, and the world.

These investments are absolutely critical to jumpstart our economic recovery, and they are critical to the stability of MTD. The time is now to make an important investment in our national infrastructure that will provide staying power to drive our economy for years to come.

Thank you again for your leadership on these issues. We look forward to working collaboratively with you and our Congressman Salud Carbajal as the INVEST in America Act moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Jerry Estrada
General Manager
Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District