

February XX, 2026

The Honorable Tim Scott  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Banking,  
Housing, and Urban Affairs  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Banking,  
Housing, and Urban Affairs  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Scott, Ranking Member Warren, Chair Collins, and Vice Chair Murray:

As the Senate works to develop a surface transportation reauthorization bill this year, we write to urge you to ensure that robust public transportation funding levels are maintained through both the Banking Committee's transit title and through advanced appropriations. Specifically, we urge you to ensure that no less than 20 percent of new Highway Trust Fund monies is allocated to the Mass Transit Account and at least \$21.25 billion in additional transit funding is provided through advanced appropriations in a five-year reauthorization bill.

This level of funding will ensure that we do not lose ground on the bipartisan investments made in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021.

With more than 8 billion transit trips taken last year, millions of Americans rely on public transportation to get to work, school, doctors' appointments, and more. Transit also makes our transportation system more efficient and opens the doors of economic opportunity, particularly for those who do not drive or cannot afford their own vehicles.

In addition to the benefits to our transportation network, public transit also creates good-paying jobs across the nation and across all sectors of the economy. Over 430,000 people are directly employed through public transit, and millions more jobs are supported by the \$77 billion in transit spending that flows to the private sector. Indeed, a network of 3,000 private-sector companies, spanning 49 States, supports our public transit infrastructure while boosting the economy.

Recognizing the critical role that public transit plays in our nation's transportation system and economy, the next surface transportation reauthorization should follow the precedent set under President Reagan in 1982 and provide no less than 20 percent of new Highway Trust Fund monies to raise the baseline levels in the Mass Transit Account.

Separately, the new reauthorization should continue to provide advanced appropriations at least equal to the levels included in the bipartisan IIJA. The \$21.25 billion in advanced appropriations in the IIJA provided an initial investment to address a growing state-of-good-repair backlog in

our nation's transit system. If we fail to maintain this investment, we risk falling farther behind. Indeed, despite the latest transit investments, the American Society of Civil Engineer's 2025 Infrastructure Report Card still graded American transit infrastructure as a "D". Only by retaining the advanced appropriations will we be able to turn the corner on previous years of underinvestment.

Thank you for your leadership and your attention to this important request.