

October 22, 2019

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan M. Collins  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development,  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development,  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairman Collins, and Ranking Member Reed:

We greatly appreciate your bipartisan efforts to advance S. 2520, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations Act, 2020. Although S. 2520 includes many critical investments for public transportation, it reduces total funding for public transportation by \$457 million compared to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 enacted levels. As you continue working together on the bill, we strongly urge you to increase investment in public transportation and permanently block the impending \$1.2 billion across-the-board cut to transit formula funds.

Infrastructure investment is critical for our nation's economic growth and now is the time to invest more, not less, in public transportation. Increased investment will provide the necessary resources to begin to address the more than \$90 billion state-of-good-repair backlog in our nation's transit systems and meet the mobility demands of growing communities.

In addition, we urge you to include a provision in the bill permanently blocking the impending 12 percent across-the-board cut to each public transit agency throughout the country. We greatly appreciate your leadership in ensuring that the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-59, Division A) included a provision temporarily preventing this cut, but further and immediate action is needed to ensure that this harmful provision does not take effect in FY 2020.

Americans ride public transportation 10 billion times a year, and every trip meets a need or provides an opportunity. It gets people to work, their doctors, local businesses, and schools. It is a lifeline that connects communities. We urge you to support increased investment in public transportation for critical projects in small, medium, and large communities across the nation.

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby, Patrick J. Leahy, Susan M. Collins, and Jack Reed

October 22, 2019

Page 2

In summary, as you continue working together on the Senate THUD Appropriations bill, we strongly urge you to increase investment in public transportation and permanently block the impending \$1.2 billion across-the-board cut to transit formula funds.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Public Transportation Association  
Amalgamated Transit Union  
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials  
American Concrete Pipe Association  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
American Planning Association  
American Road & Transportation Builders Association  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
Associated General Contractors of America  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations  
The Bus Coalition  
Community Transportation Association of America  
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute  
The Intelligent Transportation Society of America  
International Union of Operating Engineers  
National Asphalt Pavement Association  
National Association of City Transportation Officials  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of Regional Councils  
National League of Cities  
National Precast Concrete Association  
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association  
Portland Cement Association  
Railway Supply Institute  
Transport Workers Union  
Transportation for America  
Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO  
United States Chamber of Commerce  
The United States Conference of Mayors

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby, Patrick J. Leahy, Susan M. Collins, and Jack Reed

October 22, 2019

Page 3

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable John Thune, Majority Whip, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Minority Whip, U.S. Senate