

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515–1304**

September 9, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Chairman  
House Committee Transportation & Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing,  
and Urban Affairs  
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Chairman DeFazio, and Chairman Brown:

As our Committees allocate funds from the Build Back Better reconciliation bill, we urge you to include at least \$30 billion for public transportation from the allotments that have been assigned to the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) and Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committees. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill passed by the Senate provides \$39 billion for public transit. This level is \$10 billion less than the original Senate framework agreed to by the White House and the Senate, \$71 billion less than President Biden’s American Jobs Plan<sup>1</sup>, and wholly inadequate to meet current needs. The urgency of the climate crisis and the need for a robust economic recovery demand more.

Recent events such as historic heatwaves in the Pacific Northwest, unprecedented wildfires in California, droughts in the West, and damage from Hurricanes Henri and Ida in the Northeast reinforce the fact that the climate crisis is upon us. Transportation is the number one emitter of greenhouse gas emissions and unlike other sectors, GHG emissions from transportation have only grown over time. We cannot address the climate crisis in reconciliation without strengthening our public transit networks and bringing them into the 21st century. While we support additional funding for electric vehicles, studies are clear that electric vehicles alone will not allow the United States to meet its climate goals in transportation<sup>2</sup>. We must expand the use of other modes of transportation, especially public transit. A significant expansion of public transit in both urban and rural areas is needed, especially in fast-growing areas like the Southeastern United States,

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<sup>1</sup> [FACT SHEET: The American Jobs Plan | The White House](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Electric Cars Are Great. Even Better? No Cars. - Bloomberg](#)

and this goal can only be achieved through additional robust funding provided through the reconciliation legislation.

Unfortunately many public transit agencies need funding to update their operations and maintain quality, reliable service in these unpredictable times. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, public transit agencies continue to operate, connecting communities to jobs, groceries, healthcare, and family. Communities of color and working class families in particular rely on public transit to access jobs and essential services. While Congress provided funding for public transit in previous COVID-19 relief packages, the financial outlook for public transportation agencies remains unsettled. Long-term ridership is uncertain, farebox revenues remain low, and other revenue sources declined sharply during the pandemic. Public transit agencies are essential for any robust economic recovery and play a vital role in transporting millions back to work and school. Additional federal funding for public transit agencies will ensure that transit agencies can avoid additional reduction or disruption in service as states and cities continue to economically recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Build Back Better reconciliation package is a once in a generation opportunity to build a sustainable and prosperous future for our country. We urge you to provide at least \$30 billion for public transportation in the reconciliation legislation from the allotments that have been assigned to the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) and Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committees to meet the urgent needs of the climate crisis and continue our economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,



Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr.  
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress

Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress

Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress

Jason Crow  
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

Josh Harder  
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

Mondaire Jones  
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

Andy Levin  
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

Marie Newman  
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress