

January 28, 2010

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In last night's State of the Union address you outlined a bold course of action in addressing the nation's unemployment crisis, calling for a meaningful jobs measure and launching an exciting initiative to build a world-class rail network. We applaud your leadership and vision for strong investment in America's transportation infrastructure. As a national coalition of elected officials, businesses, and organizations that understand how transportation spending can create jobs, connect people to jobs and lay a foundation for a fully modernized 21<sup>st</sup> century transportation infrastructure, we believe any investments that are part of a short-term jobs package should follow three principles:

**(1) Create the greatest number of jobs in the quickest time possible by prioritizing rehabilitation and operation of existing infrastructure and target new workforce development opportunities for people most in need of employment.** The rehabilitation and operation of existing roads, bridges, rail lines and transit systems are investments that have been proven to create more jobs and get projects underway in the shortest amount of time possible. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) that increase operating efficiency of all transportation systems are quick to implement and provide 50% of project costs as direct labor compared to 20% for new highway construction. And significant funding for transit and intercity bus operations in a jobs bill would allow hundreds of public transit agencies all across America to rehire workers and drivers immediately after a jobs bill is signed while reconnecting thousands of people to jobs.

A focus on workforce development would target new transportation construction jobs to the people who need them the most by dedicating one percent of all funding for apprenticeship and construction careers programs in the transportation sector and targeting 30 percent of all construction work hours to local, lower-income workers.

**(2) Chart a new 21<sup>st</sup> century direction in transportation policy.** Our federal transportation policy and programs are stuck in the past and are out of touch with a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. We urge a jobs bill to begin to chart a new direction in federal transportation policy by including significant funding for the new TIGER grants multi-modal discretionary program as established in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the TIGGER grants to green and modernize transit vehicles, new investments in new public transit (new starts and formula funding), high speed rail, intercity bus, intelligent transportation systems, and seamless

**Transportation for America** is a broad, and growing coalition of housing, environmental, public health, business, social equity groups and elected leaders that are committed to creating a new national transportation program that will take America into the 21st Century. We may come from different backgrounds and find different ways to get around, but we believe all Americans can work together to invest in modernized infrastructure, provide families and individuals with more and better options and create healthy communities where people can live, work and play.

networks of on-road bicycle and pedestrian facilities and trails. Indeed, a new analysis by the Center for Neighborhood Technology, Smart Growth America, and U.S. PIRG shows that in the first ten months of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), investments in public transportation have created twice as many jobs per dollar as investments in highways.

Finally, in order to lay the groundwork for a new outcome-oriented direction in federal transportation policy in the upcoming legislation, we request a requirement be included for the US Department of Transportation to develop and, within nine months, report on new transportation performance measures to be incorporated into a subsequent transportation authorization.

**(3) Limit such a measure to no more than a year while moving forward as soon as possible with the long term authorization of the transportation bill.** Any short-term jobs package for transportation should be limited to no more than one year, providing a strong boost to the American economy in 2010, thereby ensuring Congress can continue its work on a longer-term transformational transportation authorization that can bring our nation's transportation policy and programs into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The economic challenges we face as a nation face are staggering. Our organizations applaud your leadership on job creation and investment in transportation infrastructure and we look forward to supporting your efforts in enacting such critical legislation.

Respectfully,

Transportation for America  
Reconnecting America (T4A Co-Chair)  
Smart Growth America (T4A Co-Chair)  
Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU)  
America 2050  
America Bikes  
American Bus Association (ABA)  
American Institute of Architects (AIA)  
American Planning Association (APA)  
Apollo Alliance  
Center for Rural Strategies  
Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO)  
Congress for New Urbanism  
Environment America  
Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)  
Environmental Law and Policy Center  
Gamaliel Foundation  
Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITSA)  
Jonathan Rose Company  
LOCUS: Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors  
McCormack Baron Salazar

National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations (NACEDA)  
National Apartment Association  
National Association of Railroads  
National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity  
National Housing Conference  
National Multi-Housing Council  
National Real Estate Developers  
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)  
Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates  
Partnership for Prevention  
PolicyLink  
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  
Real Estate Round Table  
Renaissance Downtowns  
Sierra Club  
Stewards for Affordable Housing for the Future  
Surface Transportation Policy Project (STPP)  
The Carrots and Sticks Project  
The Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA)  
The Federation of State Public Interest Groups (US PIRG)  
Transportation Equity Network (TEN)  
Walk Score

State Organizations:

Alabama

Conservation Alabama Foundation

Alaska

Alaska Center for Public Policy  
Alaska Transportation Priorities Project  
Anchorage Citizens Coalition

Arizona

Tuscon Bike Alliance

California

California Public Interest Research Group (CalPIRG)  
California WALKS  
City Car Share  
Endangered Habitats League  
Fixing Angelenos Stuck in Traffic (FAST-LA)  
Greenbelt Alliance  
Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (LACBC)  
Los Angeles Walks  
Move Los Angeles  
Move San Diego  
Sacramento Air Quality Management District

San Diego County Bicycle Coalition  
San Francisco Bicycle Coalition  
TransForm  
Urban Habitat  
Walk Sacramento  
Walk San Francisco

Colorado  
BikeDenver  
Colorado Environmental Coalition  
FRESC: Good Jobs, Strong Communities

Connecticut  
Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT)  
Connecticut Fund for the Environment  
Connecticut League of Conservation Voters Education Fund  
Greater Bridgeport Transit  
Transit for Connecticut

Delaware  
Bike Delaware

District of Columbia  
Congress for New Urbanism-DC (CNUDC)

Florida  
1000 Friends of Florida  
BikeWalkLee  
Broward County

Georgia  
WaysSouth (Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee)

Hawaii  
Peoples Advocacy for Trails Hawaii (PATH)

Illinois  
Active Transportation Alliance  
Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT)  
Illinois Public Interest Research Group (Illinois PIRG)  
Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC)  
Regional Transportation Authority

Indiana  
Health By Design  
Indiana Citizen's Alliance for Transit

Kentucky  
Bicycling for Louisville  
Coalition for the Advancement of Regional Transportation (CART)

Maine  
Maine Transit Association

Maryland  
1000 Friends of Maryland  
Action Committee for Transit

Central Maryland Transportation Alliance (CMTA)  
Maryland Public Interest Research Group (Maryland PIRG)

Massachusetts  
Alternatives for Community & Environment

Michigan  
Michigan Environmental Council

Minnesota  
1000 Friends of Minnesota  
Alliance for Metropolitan Stability  
Housing Preservation Project  
Mayor Don Ness, City of Duluth  
Mayor Marv Johnson, City of Independence  
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy  
Saint Paul Smart Trips  
State Representative John Persell  
State Representative John Ward  
State Representative Linda Slocum  
Toni Carter, Ramsey County Commissioner  
Transit for Livable Communities  
Twin Cities LISC

Missouri  
Citizens for Modern Transit

Montana  
Active Transportation Alternatives  
Billings BikeNet  
Billings League of Women Voters  
Bozeman Sustainability Group  
Citizens for a Better Flathead  
Current Transportation Solutions  
Doctor Greg Lind  
Environment Montana  
Gallatin Valley Land Trust  
Lewis and Clark City County Health Department  
Mainstreet Uptown Butte  
Missoula Advocates for Sustainable Transportation  
Missoula Downtown Association  
Montana Home Choice Coalition  
New West Health Services  
Opportunity Link  
Yellowstone Valley Parent Teacher Association

New Hampshire  
Conservation Law Foundation

New Jersey  
Environment New Jersey  
New Jersey Future

New Mexico

Greater Albuquerque Housing Partnership (GAHP)

New York

Transport Workers Union Local 100

Transportation Alternatives

Tri-State Transportation Campaign (New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey)

Ohio

Bike, Walk, Ohio!

Oregon

1000 Friends of Oregon

Bicycle Transportation Alliance

BikeLane Coalition

Environment Oregon

Sustainable Northwest

Willamette Pedestrian Coalition

Pennsylvania

10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania

Allegheny County Transit Council (ACTC)

PennFuture

Pennsylvania Works

PenTrans

Renew Lehigh Valley

Sustainable Pittsburgh

Tennessee

Livable Memphis

Transit Now Nashville

Texas

Alliance for Public Transportation (APT)

Houston Tomorrow

Washington

Cascade Bicycle Club

King County

Washington Public Interest Research Group (WashPIRG)

Wisconsin

Madison Area Bus Advocates (MABA)

Wisconsin State Public Interest Group (WISPIRG)

Cc:

Honorable Joseph Biden, Vice President of the United States

Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation

Honorable Rahm Emmanuel, White House Chief of Staff

Honorable Lawrence H. Summers, Director of the National Economic Council

Honorable Peter Orszag, Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Honorable Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor and Assistant to the President for  
Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement

Honorable Melody Barnes, Director of the Domestic Policy Council