

Chambers for Transit

Last year, over 200 American cities submitted bids to land Amazon’s second headquarters. Only two succeeded. The winners—Arlington, Virginia and New York City—have robust public transportation systems.

Businesses know that this isn’t a coincidence. Public transportation empowers businesses to attract talented workers, and provides access to jobs—which is why 30 chambers of commerce from around the country are joining forces to protect and increase federal transit funding.

What is Chambers for Transit?

A national coalition of chambers of commerce, economic development groups, business districts, and other business groups that support federal funding for public transit to make their communities more economically vibrant.

“As Utah’s population continues to grow, transit is more important than ever,” said **Derek Miller, President & CEO of the Salt Lake Chamber**. “The availability of high quality transit in our communities directly correlates with Utah’s economic success, business-friendly climate and high quality of life.”

WHY BUSINESSES LOVE TRANSIT:

- Proximity to transit helps businesses attract talented workers¹
- Properties near transit are worth more than properties without nearby transit services²
- Transit riders spend more money at local businesses than drivers³
- Transit increases employers’ access to local labor pools⁴

How can Congress help cities and towns win the next Amazon?

Congress has the power to spur local economies through transit. By fully funding USDOT’s Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program, ensuring BUILD Grants fund multimodal projects, and creating more parity between transit and road funding in the next long-term transportation bill, Congress can empower local businesses across the country.

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WHO WE ARE: Transportation for America is an alliance of elected, business and civic leaders from communities across the country, united to ensure that states and the federal government step up to invest in smart, homegrown, locally-driven transportation solutions. These are the investments that hold the key to our future economic prosperity.

- 1: <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/resources/core-values-why-american-companies-are-moving-downtown/>
- 2: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/assets/Uploads/cpatransport2.pdf>
- 3: https://nacto.org/docs/usdg/consumer_behavior_and_travel_choices_clifton.pdf
- 4: <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/11-transit-labor-tomer-full-paper.pdf>