



The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic crisis across the country has negatively impacted millions of families and their communities in many ways. One essential aspect of our community life that faced existential threat was our public transportation systems. Thanks to the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan, public transit has bypassed disaster. But we need to do more than just avoid disaster. We need to use this moment to create a public transit that will help us truly build back better—one that will be an engine for equitable economic growth across the country.

The pandemic dramatically showed that transit is essential to our communities, local economies and the lives of millions of people across the country. Essential workers depend on and operate transit, small businesses depend on transit, historically marginalized communities depend on transit. Transit is a key component of economic recovery, a more environmentally sustainable society and a road to equity for disconnected communities, rural, urban and suburban.

This is why we are so excited about the “Stronger Communities through Better Transit Act,” a bill to provide greater quality transit to communities across the country. This vital piece of legislation would create a new formula grant program available to all transit agencies, rural and urban, to increase service frequency so that people don’t have to wait so long for the bus; to provide additional hours of service so that those who don’t work white collar hours can still get to their jobs; and to add new, frequent service to underserved communities in the region.

The federal government has for decades supported the cost of operating aviation through air traffic control and the cost of shipping through investment in ports and the management of locks and dams in the inland waterways. These are essential services for the movement of goods and people. Operating high quality transit is just as essential to get people to employment and to give businesses access to talent and customers.

We hope you will support and cosponsor this vital piece of legislation to ensure public transit does not just recover from COVID, but expands to create more sustainable and prosperous communities.

Sincerely,

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Additional signers:

1000 Friends of Oregon
1000 Friends of Wisconsin
2degrees Northampton, Mass
5th Square
Active Transportation Alliance
All Aboard Ohio
Allston Brighton Health Collaborative
Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation (BEST)
Beverly Scott Associates, LLC
Bike Durham
Businesses for a Livable Climate
CA Businesses for a Livable Climate
California Walks
Call to Action Colorado
CatholicNetwork US
Center for Neighborhood Technology
CicLAvia
Circulate San Diego
City of Fresno, CA - Transportation/FAX
City of Horn Lake, MS
City of Houston, TX
City of Philadelphia, PA
Clevelanders for Public Transit
Climate Action Now Western Mass
CO Businesses for a Livable Climate
Coalition for Smarter Growth
Colorado Small Business Coalition
Communities Actively Living Independent & Free
Community Change
Community Change Action
CultureHouse
Denver Streets Partnership
Dream Corps Green For All
Earth Day Mobile Bay, Inc.
Friends of Caltrain
Gamaliel
Genesis, Bay Area affiliate of the Gamaliel Network
Greening Greenfield
GreenLatinos
In the Public Interest
Institute for Transportation & Development Policy
InterReligious Task Force on Central America and Colombia
Investing in Place
Labor Network for Sustainability

LivableStreets Alliance
Main Street Alliance
Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
MHAction
Mile High Connects
Move LA
Move Redmond
National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)
Neighbors for Clean Air
New Urban Mobility alliance
Newark Regional Business Partnership
North Range Concerned Citizens
Oregon Environmental Council
Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA (PCAC)
Pittsburghers for Public Transit
Planning and Conservation League
Rapid Shift Network
Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) - South Berkshire County
Ride New Orleans
Riders Alliance (NY)
San Francisco Transit Riders
Seamless Bay Area
See Plymouth
Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
Southern Environmental Law Center
Spirit of the Sun
Sunrise Movement Worcester
Sunrise Movement Oberlin
Sunrise Movement Ohio
Sustain Charlotte
The Health Foundation of Central Mass
The People's Lobby
The Street Trust (Greater Portland OR)
Transbay Coalition
Transit Alliance Miami
Transit Riders of the US Together
TransitMatters
Transportation Choices Coalition
Transportation for Massachusetts
Transportation Riders United (Detroit)
Tri-State Transportation Campaign
Uluono Initiative
Unite North Metro Denver
Verde
Virginia Organizing

Walk Bike Nashville
WalkBoston
Wall of Women
Western Reserve Transit Authority
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice