

May 8, 2013

Polly Trottenberg
Under Secretary for Policy
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Under Secretary Trottenberg:

Thank you for your leadership of the U.S. Department of Transportation's efforts to implement the federal surface transportation reauthorization (MAP-21) in a manner that creates jobs, renews our nation's transportation infrastructure, and provides all people with access to a range of transportation options.

The undersigned organizations strongly believe that federal transportation investment must create a bridge to opportunity for all Americans – regardless of their race, income, age, physical ability or zip code. Since USDOT began implementation of MAP-21 late last year, we have noted with interest several activities which set a foundation for more equitable transportation investment. These include issuance of: proposed regulations for disadvantaged business enterprises; new guidance for compliance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act for transit projects; and final rules for the New Starts transit capital grant program which prioritize affordable housing and mobility for transit-dependent populations.

Moving forward, we seek opportunities to work with USDOT to best leverage policy and investments authorized by MAP-21 to:

- Support public transportation, as well as other essential transportation options (e.g. bicycling and walking).
- Expand access to jobs created by USDOT-funded projects for low-income people, individuals with disabilities, women, and communities of color.
- Promote compliance with and enforcement of existing civil rights and Americans with Disabilities Act provisions for transportation projects.
- Engage in research projects that examine disparities in transportation access for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-income people.
- Ensure that provisions for public participation in environmental review of transportation projects are not compromised by “streamlining” activities.

As USDOT seeks to implement MAP-21, we encourage you to focus your efforts on ensuring that federal transportation dollars are invested in a manner that allows all Americans to connect to greater economic opportunity. Our organizations stand ready to work with you in that effort. To that end, we invite you and your colleagues to begin a dialogue with us about current opportunities to advance the aforementioned objectives. We look forward to working with you and would like to schedule time in the coming weeks to discuss the best way to move forward.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Biking and Walking
Alternatives for Community & Environment
Amalgamated Transit Union
Americans for Transit
America Walks
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living
Center for Social Inclusion
Compliance USA Inc.
FRESC: Good Jobs, Strong Communities
Gamaliel Foundation
Green for All
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
League of American Bicyclists
Legal Momentum
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Madison Area Bus Advocates
Missouri Women in Trades
NAACP
The National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations
National Housing Conference
On Equal Terms Project
Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc.
Partnership for Working Families
PolicyLink
Poverty and Race Research Action Council
Public Advocates
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Safe Routes to School National Partnership
Sierra Club
Transportation Equity Network
Urban Habitat
West Virginia Women Work
Women In Non Traditional Employment Roles