

February 14, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

America's transportation system is a matter of vital national importance, playing a critical role in our economic competitiveness and growth over the last fifty years. Yet our nation lacks a clearly articulated transportation vision to guide our future infrastructure investments. The current fiscal environment makes it more important than ever to spend transportation dollars in a manner that is both accountable and transparent.

For these reasons, we ask you to support the *National Surface Transportation and Freight Policy Act* (Title XII of S. 1950) as you consider the upcoming surface transportation authorization bill on the floor of the U.S. Senate. This legislation will help ensure we take the critical steps necessary to develop a performance-driven national transportation program. It will ensure a comprehensive national strategy for breaking gridlock, reducing fatality rates, reducing our dependence on foreign oil, and efficiently moving goods and people while improving access, quality of life, and public health.

For the first time in more than twenty years the surface transportation authorization bill being considered in Congress does not significantly increase transportation investments. Establishing a national vision and performance measures will help ensure that we are making the most of our limited transportation funds. We applaud the steps that have been taken by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the Senate Banking Committee to establish performance measures for the highway and transit programs respectively. The measures included in the *National Surface Transportation and Freight Policy Act* will help ensure we have overarching goals and objectives for our nation's multimodal transportation system.

This Act also includes key provisions to improve the nation's transportation system. It would help ensure that new transportation facilities built with federal funds will safely accommodate all users. This will help reduce traffic-related fatalities on our roadways, which totaled more than 411,000 over the last decade. The Act would also establish a multimodal grant program to help improve goods movement, which would award grants to projects using a merit-based process that considers mobility, innovation, environment and public health.

We hope that you will support the development of national transportation goals and objectives to ensure we are working to meet a national vision for our transportation system in addition to other important provisions in the National Surface Transportation and Freight Policy Act. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CC: Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer
Environment and Public Works Committee Ranking Member James M. Inhofe
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Chairman John D. Rockefeller IV
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Ranking Member Kay Bailey Hutchison
Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus
Finance Committee Ranking Member Orrin G. Hatch
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Chairman Tim Johnson
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Ranking Member Richard C. Shelby

National Organizations

AARP	National Complete Streets Coalition
Alliance for Biking & Walking	The National Council on Independent Living
America Bikes	National Housing Conference
American Public Health Association	Natural Resources Defense Council
The American Society of Landscape Architects	PolicyLink
Amtrak	Rails to Trails Conservancy
Association for Commuter Transportation	Reconnecting America
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)	Regional Plan Association
Center for Neighborhood Technology	Safe Routes to School National Partnership
Center for Rural Strategies	Sierra Club
CEOs for Cities	Smart Growth America
Congress for the New Urbanism	Transportation for America
Gamaliel	Transportation Equity Network (TEN)
Institute for Transportation & Development Policy	Trust for America's Health
International Downtown Association	United Spinal Association
League of American Bicyclists	Upstream Public Health
League of Conservation Voters	The Urban Land Institute
League of Rural Voters	U.S. High Speed Rail Association
LOCUS: Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors	U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG)
National Association of City Transportation Officials	YouthBuild USA

Regional Organizations

Midwest High Speed Rail Association
Southern Environmental Law Center

State/Local Organizations

Alabama

Conservation Alabama

Arizona

Arizona PIRG

California

California Bicycle Coalition
California League of Conservation Voters
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
California PIRG
California Public Health Association-North
California WALKS
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Stockton
Center For Independence Of Individuals
with Disabilities
Greenbelt Alliance
Local Government Commission
Marin County Bicycle Coalition
Move San Diego
Redwood Coast Rural Action
Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality
Management District
SPUR
Ubuntu Green
WALKS Sacrament
Walk Oakland Bike Oakland

Colorado

Colorado PIRG

Connecticut

Connecticut PIRG

Florida

BikeWalkLee
Florida PIRG
Smart Growth Partnership

Georgia

Georgia PIRG

Illinois

The Consortium to Lower Obesity in
Chicago Children (a program of Children's
Memorial Hospital)
Illinois PIRG

Indiana

Health by Design
Indiana Citizens' Alliance for Transit

Iowa

Iowa PIRG

Massachusetts

Massachusetts PIRG
Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance

Maryland

1000 Friends of Maryland

Maryland PIRG

TND Planning Group

Michigan

Michigan PIRG (PIRGIM)

Minnesota

Fresh Energy

Minnesota Center for Environmental
Advocacy

Transit for Livable Communities

Missouri

BikeWalkKC (Missouri & Kansas)

Missouri Association of Local Public Health
Agencies

Missouri PIRG

Montana

Montana Council On Developmental
Disabilities

Montana Public Health Association

RiverStone Health

New Hampshire

New Hampshire PIRG

New Jersey

New Jersey PIRG

New Mexico

New Mexico Chapter: American Planning
Association

New Mexico PIRG

Rio Grande Chapter: Sierra Club

New York

Independent Living Center of the Hudson
Valley Inc.

New York League of Conservation Voters

Transportation Alternatives

Tri-State Transportation Campaign

North Carolina

North Carolina PIRG

Ohio

Ohio PIRG

Oregon

The Honorable Sam Adams, Mayor City of
Portland

ASK for Bikes

Association of Oregon Rail and Transit
Advocates

Coalition for a Livable Future

Commute Options

Congress for the New Urbanism-Cascadia
(Oregon & Washington)

Geonomics Consulting

Lane Transit District

Oregon Environmental Council

Oregon PIRG (OSPIRG)

Ride Connection

Roseburg Bicycle/Pedestrian Coalition

SEDCOR

Pennsylvania

Clean Air Council

Pennsylvania PIRG

Rhode Island

Rhode Island PIRG

Virginia

RAIL Solution

Washington

Washington PIRG

Wisconsin

Madison Area Bus Advocates

Wisconsin PIRG

West Virginia

Good News Mountaineer Garage