

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011

Harold Rogers, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515  
Tom Latham, Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
House Transportation, Housing and Urban  
Development, and Related Agencies  
2358 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Norm Dicks, Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
John Olver, Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
House Transportation, Housing and Urban  
Development, and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Dicks, Subcommittee Chair Latham, Subcommittee Ranking Member Olver:

We, the undersigned organizations, call upon Congress to continue job-creating investment in our nation's transportation network. As the House debates an appropriate level of funding for the Fiscal Year 2011 Continuing Resolution, Americans continue to go about their lives, commuting to work, school, and elsewhere on our nation's crumbling infrastructure. Long, congested commutes and crowded buses and trains keep Americans stuck in traffic and spending more money on ever-rising gas prices with no end in sight.

Transportation investments are proven job creators, providing work to the hard-hit construction industry and creating long-term value to the economy. Investment in transportation programs today will help pull the economy out of its slump, while creating a better quality of life and healthier communities for your constituents. The cuts passed in H.R. 1 are particularly troublesome – targeting those very transportation projects that Americans rely on and slowing projects in the pipeline, further delaying construction job opportunities. We call on you to turn this tide, and ensure that the final Fiscal Year 2011 budget:

- Continues funding for the U.S. Department of Transportation's TIGER program in FY11, which strengthens the economy, creates jobs, reduces gridlock, and provides safe, low-cost transportation choices to our citizens in metropolitan and rural areas.
- Restores the cuts in funding to Amtrak for capital projects, which provides important transportation links to small and large communities alike.
- Continues funding High Speed Rail projects, vital to providing high-speed transportation in high density and economically important corridors.
- Restores funding cuts to the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) New Starts program, which provides federal matching funds for development and construction of new public transit lines. These projects put people to work, provide low-cost transportation choices, improve our health and often leverage private investment along the corridors.
- Restores funding for FTA's Energy Efficiency grants, which provides federal funds to help improve the energy efficiency of our nation's transit systems in metropolitan and rural areas, lowering operating costs and reducing our dependency on oil.

We urge you to support these vital transportation programs in the FY2011 continuing resolution.

Sincerely,

Apollo Alliance  
Alliance for Biking & Walking  
Amalgamated Transit Union  
Amtrak  
American College of Sports Medicine  
American Public Health Association  
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living  
Center for Rural Strategies  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Center for Social Inclusion  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Developing Communities Project  
Environment America  
Gamaliel Foundation  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters  
League of Conservation Voters  
League of Rural Voters  
LOCUS: Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors  
National Association of City Transportation Officials  
National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity  
National Complete Streets Coalition  
National Housing Conference  
National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Partnership for Prevention  
Partnership for Working Families  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
PolicyLink  
Poverty and Race Research Action Council  
Prevention Institute  
Reconnecting America  
Safe States Alliance  
Smart Growth America  
Transit for Livable Communities  
Transport Workers Union  
Transportation Equity Network  
Upstream Public Health  
U.S. PIRG  
YouthBuild

cc:

Speaker of the House John A. Boehner  
House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi