

November 29, 2011

Speaker of the House John Boehner  
1011 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

Thank you for your attention to the important issue of transportation investment. We are very pleased that you have made a public commitment to advancing a long-term surface transportation bill with a robust level of funding. In addition to funding, it is also important to recognize that federal transportation policy choices—what we build, where we put it, who builds it, how we operate it, what energy powers it—have an enormous impact on our economy, our environment, and our health.

Our organizations are writing to express our strong belief that to get Americans back to work right away and successfully deliver the 21st-century transportation system that Americans need and deserve, we need a set of priorities for the transportation bill that is focused on expanding opportunity for all people. To ensure that transportation investments provide immediate and broad benefits to all Americans including the millions that are struggling, the next surface transportation bill must focus on the following five priorities:

1. Preserve and expand existing programs that fund essential transportation options— bicycling, walking, and public transportation.
2. Expand access to quality transportation jobs for the chronically-unemployed, low-income people, women, communities of color, and people with disabilities.
3. Improve transportation outcomes through planning, with measures that promote equity and investments that benefit all Americans, including economically-distressed communities.
4. Reform transportation funding to lower household expenses and foster community development.
5. Strengthen enforcement of existing civil rights provisions.

Focusing on these five priorities is critical to ensuring that our nation remains economically-competitive and that American families can live in healthy, sustainable communities of opportunity that are rich with affordable transportation options.

As you seek to advance the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act, we strongly urge you to incorporate these priorities into the legislation. Additionally, we encourage you and your colleagues to work to pass a long-term surface transportation bill that is driven by the aforementioned priorities. We are ready to assist you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Biking and Walking  
America Walks  
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living  
Center for Rural Strategies  
CLASP  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Gamaliel Foundation

Good News Mountaineer Garage  
Green for All  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
Legal Momentum  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation  
Low Income Investment Fund  
Madison Area Bus Advocates  
National Housing Conference  
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development  
National Complete Streets Coalition  
National Congress of American Indians  
National Council of La Raza  
Partnership for Working Families  
PolicyLink  
Poverty and Race Research Action Council  
Public Advocates  
Safe Routes to School National Partnership  
Transit Riders for Public Transportation  
Transportation for America  
Transportation Equity Network  
Ubuntu Green  
Wider Opportunities for Women  
YouthBuild USA