



TEAM: TRANSPORTATION

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SUBJECT: FEDERAL INVESTMENT TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN A SAFE, EFFICIENT AND RESILIENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

A strong, reliable, and forward-looking transportation system is essential to the economic vitality, safety, and quality of life in the Capital Region. As Congress prepares for a new transportation funding reauthorization, local agencies and partners seek federal leadership that ensures stable investment, streamlines project delivery, and supports innovation across all modes. These priorities will help maintain and improve critical infrastructure, strengthen mobility, and create lasting benefits for businesses and residents alike.

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

Prioritize Federal Funding Stability

- Prioritize federal funding for core federal highway and transit programs, including Surface Transportation Block Grant, Highway Safety Improvement Program, National Highway Freight Program, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality, and Bridge Formula Program.
- Maintain and increase transit-specific funding for programs like Low or No Bus Emission, Buses and Bus Facilities Program, Capital Investment Grants, and increase formula funding available for operating assistance.
- Support user pay models that are derived from system use, generate recurring revenue, dedicated to highway and public transit improvements, and capable of supporting sufficient investment to meet mobility needs.



Streamline Project Delivery

- Modernize the NEPA process, rules and definition of “major federal action” to better align federal resource agencies’ review and permitting actions that improve transportation and environmental outcomes while reducing delays.
- Fully implement the One Federal Decision to speed up the review timeline for projects and improve accountability for all parties involved in a project.

Expand Investment and Innovation

- Reduce the number of discretionary grants and return to a higher ratio of formula funds to discretionary funds. Additionally, consolidate formula programs with similar policy objectives to allow state and local governments to optimize delivery.
- Expand financing options, such as protecting state and local revenue authority, and enhancing the TIFIA program.
- Fix discretionary grant inefficiencies by streamlining application and agreement processes for discretionary grants, minimize or eliminate new requirements beyond what is in current law, minimize annual changes to grant criteria, and give priority to project readiness.
- Expand eligibility of grant programs to fund technology advancement and innovation, including consideration of frameworks and standards for seamless infrastructure, vehicle connectivity, and autonomy.

HOW THIS SUPPORTS BUSINESSES:

- Stable transportation funding keeps the region’s pipeline of improvement, maintenance, and operations projects moving forward. This reduces economic uncertainty and ensures businesses can depend on a reliable, efficient transportation network.
- Faster project timelines mean businesses face fewer disruptions, gain earlier access to improved infrastructure, and benefit from more predictable construction schedules. Less bureaucratic delays also reduce project costs—important for both public agencies and private contractors.
- By delivering projects more efficiently with more options available, there is more consistent and timely infrastructure investment; improved connectivity across the business megaregion through passenger rail access; faster access to



improvements that enhance freight movement, customer access, and employee mobility; and expanded workforce opportunity to new skills and sectors.

HOW THIS SUPPORTS RESIDENTS OF OUR REGION:

- By prioritizing stable federal funding for highway, transit, passenger rail, safety, bridge, and air-quality programs, the recommendations help ensure that residents have safer, better-maintained roads, bridges, and public transportation services. Reliable infrastructure contributes to safer travel for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and transit and rail riders.
- Increased transit-specific funding supports more frequent, cleaner, and more accessible transit service. This improves mobility for residents who rely on public transportation, including seniors, youth, and low-income households.
- Streamlined project processes provide faster access to new or improved infrastructure, less time living near long construction zones, and more predictable timelines for safety and mobility improvements.
- Investing in innovation expands mobility choice beyond traditional options.
- Efficient project delivery and sustained investment support job creation and workforce opportunities across sectors, including construction, operations, and emerging mobility technologies.