

Date

Honorable
Address

Dear elected official:

I/we are writing you to request your continued support for public transportation initiatives in (area). As proven by our investment in the community utilizing funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, public transportation is an economic development tool that provides a maximum return on a minimal investment. An example of ARRA projects in our area include: (list ARRA projects). These projects created or saved (list number from 1201c report) jobs for (area) residents in the fields of (construction, engineering, consulting, etc...) ARRA has allowed us to meet the transportation challenges of those affected by the economic downturn and serve as a link to places of employment, employment assistance agencies, and educational facilities. We have also implemented or increased the investment in sustainable new innovations like hybrid buses to meet the new administration's goal of protecting our precious natural resources and reducing our dependence on non-renewable energy.

The investment in public transportation is also vital to economic development because it is helping to maintain diverse communities. Although we are currently experiencing respite from the stifling fuel prices over the summer of 2008, many economists are forecasting a return to \$4.00 gasoline as the global economy rebounds. Without a viable public transportation network, the challenges of staffing low and moderate income jobs is nearly impossible because of the cost of fuel and the residual cost of goods and services resulting from high fuel costs. Communities can not expect to maintain a pool of moderately compensated service employees if they are priced out of the local housing markets and are unable to procure safe and reliable transportation.

Urban communities like (community) can not continue to allow increased traffic congestion on our road network and remain economically viable. Continued investment in public transportation initiatives will allow communities like (list community) to minimize congestion, reduce or prevent an increase in substandard air quality and maintain an acceptable quality of life environment for our citizens. History has demonstrated that we can not build our way to prosperity. Our road network is predicted remain at or above capacity until we develop a sound transportation policy that encompasses many transportation modes and encourages public transportation programs like vanpooling, carpooling, transit and the like. Additionally, paving over our scarce and vital natural resources is neither economically viable nor prudent. We must begin now to implement transportation initiatives that allow for continued growth and prosperity. We must also look for solutions to the environmental impacts of our transportation choices and devise a sound policy that offers safe, reliable and convenient transportation alternatives. Public transportation is not the ultimate solution to the transportation problems plaguing our communities, but with careful planning, an increased investment in our transit network can make a difference.

We appreciate your continued support of public transportation initiatives and will maintain our message to the community that public transportation is a transportation initiative not a social program. Our services are open and available to everyone and the services we provide are in our opinion worth the investment of public resources. If you or your staff would like to discuss our service offerings in detail, please feel free to contact (contact). Thank you again for your support in the past and in the future as we seek innovative new approaches to transportation initiatives in our community and throughout the nation.

Regards,

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