

Date

Honorable
Address

Dear elected official:

I/we are writing you to request your continued support for public transportation initiatives in (area). Your support of transit in North Carolina not only provides jobs directly to citizens of the state working in local transit agencies, but it also provides access to jobs for tens of thousands of North Carolinians.

The investment in public transportation is also vital to economic development in the state 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. This is compounded in (area) because of the lack of local jobs. Most jobs are located in (community) which is (xxx) miles away. Commutes are not only time consuming but expensive and access to public transportation is key to the community. Currently we coordinate public transportation services with (list agency). This regional approach not only eases the commute for our citizens, but increases the value of all public transportation agencies involved. Your support for transit initiatives also provides a viable option to those who either do not have the financial means or the desire to commute to work via the single occupant automobile.

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.

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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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