



## 2020 Federal Advocacy Program

### ITEM

#### **Funding**

- Grant Opportunities – Secure federal funds for key capital projects and project priorities for:
  - Rehabilitation, expansion, and replacement of aging buses, facilities, technologies and equipment and maintain in a state of good repair;
  - The Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program, Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program, and other programs;
  - Security cameras and wireless access technologies for buses and facilities; and
  - Integration of new mobility tools like demand-responsive bus services.
- Advocate for supplemental funding through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to offset rising operating costs without jeopardizing total funding available for capital projects.
- Support operations funding for the Salesforce Transit Center.
- Support/seek additional funding for essential services including, but not limited to services for access to work, school or medical facilities.
- Support/seek additional funding for Accessible fixed\_route and Paratransit Services
- Support federal funds to purchase, upgrade and modernize zero emission buses (ZEBs) and related infrastructure.
- Support policy initiatives that relieve the undue burden of mandatory regulations by requiring all mandates be fully funded to protect the fiscal integrity of the District, including Safety Management Systems (SMS), Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP), State of Good Repair, asset management plans, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Support federal funds to deploy 5G wireless technologies for buses and facilities.
- Seek funding to support the development and deployment of emergency preparedness and cybersecurity strategies for protecting transit related critical infrastructure

### **Transportation Authorization Principles**

- Advocate for the inclusion of transit buses and infrastructure by Congress and the Administration in any initiative to enhance funding or financing opportunities for transportation.
- Ensure that alternative financing proposals do not replace current funding for transit from the Highway Trust Fund.
- Preserve continued guaranteed funding for transit from the Highway Trust Fund/Mass Transit Account, and oppose any efforts to change the 80/20 split for highways and transit that would reduce funding for transit.
- Support funding solutions that generate new revenues that include the gas tax, carbon tax, and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) tax to replenish and sustain long-term growth of the Highway Trust Fund/Mass Transit Account.
- Support FTA and Congressional efforts to make State of Good Repair for transit bus systems a strategic priority and include more funding.
- Support legislation for direct representation of transit districts on Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).
- Support legislation through the federal highway and transportation authorization for safety requirements based on agency size and transportation mode.
- Support efforts to permit local labor workforce minimums for construction projects funded by grants from the FTA.

### **Other Transportation Related Advocacy**

- Support funding and coordination between federal health agencies and transportation agencies to provide services to clients and support the Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM).
- Preserve modal parity by maintaining the commute tax benefit and reinstate the ability of employers to deduct the cost of this benefit.
- Advocate for maintaining the tax exemption on municipal bonds.
- Restore tax exemption for advance refunding bonds.
- Advocate for funding of infrastructure improvements covered by the ADA.
- Advocate for transit-supportive legislation that mitigates climate change and/or calls for environmental stewardship and related funding.

- Support efforts that allow for greater flexibility to the FTA's 20% spare ratio requirement.
- Monitor legislation or regulations related to emerging mobility services and shared data that can be used for transportation and operational purposes.
- Support legislation that requires shared mobility providers to provide anonymous trip-level data to transit providers which can be used for transportation planning and operational purposes
- Oppose efforts that undermine the authority of states and localities to enact their own regulations related to autonomous vehicles (AVs).
- Support funding that invests in apprenticeship, workforce development and workforce training programs.
- Support efforts to develop and deploy new transit data management platforms.
- Support funding to deploy new video security technologies including video analytics and collision avoidance systems.
- Support efforts to collaborate with technology startups in developing innovative transit hardware and software solutions.

#### **Administrative and Non-Transportation Related Advocacy**

- Oppose actions that decrease funding for sanctuary cities or California.
- Monitor actions regarding California's Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA).
- Support legislation that encourages Single Payer health insurance.
- Monitor progress of the 2020 Census and support actions that ensure an accurate count.
- Support legislation that encourages a decrease in federal clauses and consistency of requirements for federally funded procurements