



## 2023 FEDERAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM

### **CORE PRINCIPLES**

1. The District will pursue policies and actions that support its mission “to deliver safe, reliable, sustainable transit service that responds to the needs of our customers and communities.”
2. Our advocacy efforts will be further guided by our commitment to:
  - a. promoting diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility;
  - b. advancing sustainability and promoting environmental justice; and
  - c. fostering healthy communities and environments.
3. Funding for transit is central to achieving our goals. The District will vigorously pursue federal funding and advocate for the inclusion of transit buses and infrastructure, with increased federal funding, in any initiative by Congress and the Administration.
4. Technology, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic have and will continue to transform mobility. The District will pursue policies, actions, and partnerships to sustain and enhance our essential service in this rapidly evolving environment.

### **FUNDING**

#### ***Identify and secure long-term funding for...***

1. Ongoing COVID-19 pandemic-related expenses, including assistance at 100% federal share
2. Implementing the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act* and other legislation that supports public transit infrastructure
3. Environmental sustainability initiatives that reduce the District's carbon footprint
4. Full implementation of the District's zero emission bus (ZEB) transition plan
5. The creation of an advanced workforce training facility and program to provide zero-emission technological skills for transit workers
6. Apprenticeship, workforce development and workforce training programs, with an emphasis on climate and environmental sustainability
7. Increasing the participation of Disadvantaged and Small Business Enterprises in contracting opportunities with the District
8. Offsetting operating cost increases without jeopardizing total funding available for capital projects
9. Ongoing operations, maintenance and enhancement of the District's buses, facilities, assets and key programs
10. All-hazards strategies that protect and make more resilient the District's physical and cyber infrastructure and its human resources
11. Initiatives that support broad-based access to public transit, including enhanced fare payment options and reduced or fare free service

12. Innovative technology initiatives, partnerships, and investments that support public transit
13. Accessible fixed route and paratransit services and infrastructure
14. Projects that deliver or enhance key intermodal connections for AC Transit service
15. Maintaining a state of good repair
16. Long-term growth of the Highway Trust Fund/Mass Transit Account

### **TRANSPORTATION RELATED ADVOCACY**

#### ***Advocate for transit-supportive laws, regulations, actions, and policies that...***

1. Preserve, at a minimum, the 80/20 split for highways and transit in the Highway Trust Fund/Mass Transit Account
2. Index transportation revenue sources to keep pace with inflation
3. Significantly reduce or eliminate a local match when utilizing federal funds.
4. Require any mandatory regulations be fully funded
5. Enhance the District's ability to convert capital funds to support operating purposes
6. Permanently reinstate and extend the Alternative Fuel Tax Credit to include electricity and hydrogen as an eligible alternative transportation fuel
7. Ensure the stable and predictable supply and affordable cost of electricity and hydrogen, while ensuring that their use for mass transit is prioritized
8. Allow and fund local labor workforce minimums for construction projects financed by Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grants
9. Provide incentives for employees and employers to use public transportation to commute to work
10. Maintain the tax exemption on municipal bonds and restore the tax exemption for advance refunding bonds
11. Streamline or eliminate outdated, irrelevant, or onerous regulatory requirements that impede the District's ability to conduct its operations and/or deliver transportation services
12. Facilitate new mobility collaborations, "smart cities" initiatives, first/last mile solutions, and data sharing agreements that reduce reliance on personal vehicles and promote increased public transit ridership
13. Allocate dedicated radio frequency spectrum to public transportation
14. Require direct representation of transit properties on Metropolitan Planning Organizations
15. Provide funding and improve coordination between federal health agencies and transit operators to provide services to clients, including individuals with a disability or mobility limitations

### **COVID-19 PANDEMIC RELATED PRIORITIES**

#### ***Pursue laws, regulations, actions, and policies that ...***

1. Designates public transit employees as essential workers and prioritizes resources to them

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND NON-TRANSPORTATION RELATED ADVOCACY**

1. Oppose actions that decrease funding for sanctuary cities or the State of California
2. Monitor actions regarding California's Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA)
3. Support legislation that encourages single-payer health insurance
4. Support legislation that streamlines federal clauses and consistency of requirements for federally funded procurements

**TIMELINE: 2023 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR***All dates approximate pending release of the 2023 legislative calendar.*

01/03/23	Congress reconvenes
01/16/23 – 01/20/23	Congressional Recess: Martin Luther King Day Holiday
02/06/23	President's FY 2024 budget request sent to Congress
02/20/23 – 02/24/23	Congressional Recess: President's Day Holiday
March 2023	Congress begins FY 2024 Appropriations hearings
04/03/23 – 04/14/23	Congressional Recess: Spring Holiday
05/29/23 – 06/02/23	Congressional Recess: Memorial Day Holiday
07/03/23 – 07/07/23	Congressional Recess: Fourth of July Holiday
08/07/23 – 09/06/23	Congressional Summer Recess
September 2023	Congress finalizes FY 2024 Appropriations or passes a Continuing Resolution to fund the government beyond September 30
November – December 2023	Congress works until FY 2024 Appropriations are complete