



## 2025 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 the core values of *Safety, Service, Environmental Sustainability, Equity, Innovation, Integrity, and Trust* enshrined in the District’s Strategic Plan

### 2025 FEDERAL ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

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

1. Maintenance operations, priority capital projects, and ridership recovery
2. Our priorities in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act, including but not limited to, ensuring the funding levels for transit capital programs, including the Low and No Emission grant program, are continued or increased in the next authorization
3. Transit operations
4. Workforce recruitment, training, development, retention, safety, wellness, and well-being
5. The delivery of reliable, equitable, accessible, and affordable public transportation
6. Addressing the District’s projected, post-pandemic and inflation induced operating deficits
7. Sustaining and growing federal investments in bus and transit infrastructure
8. Investments that protect and enhance the resiliency of the District’s physical, cybersecurity, operational, and human assets
9. Comprehensive sustainability initiatives, including but not limited to zero emission bus and paratransit program needs
10. Achieving compliance with federally mandated regulations

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

1. Provide the means needed to ensure the District’s fiscal integrity
2. Respond to customer needs and result in increased transit ridership
3. Support innovative technology initiatives, partnerships, and investments that benefit public transit and increase ridership
4. Support efforts to grow and stabilize the Highway Trust Fund and preserve, at a minimum, the 20 percent allocation to the Mass Transit Account
5. Reduce regulatory barriers to efficiently develop and deliver District projects and services

6. Require direct and equal representation of transit properties on Metropolitan Planning Organizations
7. Support the provision of zero emission bus and paratransit vehicle service and programming
8. Avoid new, unfunded mandates and regulations
9. Promote equitable access to transportation and prioritize underserved and disadvantaged communities
10. Support transportation workforce development, training and safety

**2025 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR**

|                          |                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01/03/2025               | Congress Reconvenes. New Members of Congress are sworn in.                                                             |
| 01/20/2025               | Inauguration Day/MLK Jr. Day                                                                                           |
| 01/27/2025 - 01/31/2025  | District work week (House only)                                                                                        |
| 02/03/2025               | President's FY 2026 budget request sent to Congress (could slip)                                                       |
| 02/17/25 – 02/21/2025    | Congressional Recess: President's Day Holiday (House only)                                                             |
| March 2025               | Congress begins FY 2026 Appropriations hearings                                                                        |
| 03/17/2025 - 03/21/2025  | District work week                                                                                                     |
| 04/14/2025 – 04/28/2025  | Congressional Recess: Spring Holiday                                                                                   |
| 05/26/2025 – 05/30/2025  | Congressional Recess: Memorial Day Holiday                                                                             |
| 06/16/2025 - 06/20/2025  | District work week                                                                                                     |
| 06/30/2025 – 07/04/2025  | Congressional Recess: Fourth of July Holiday                                                                           |
| 07/28/2025 – 09/02/2025  | Congressional Summer Recess                                                                                            |
| September 2025           | Congress finalizes FY 2026 Appropriations or passes a Continuing Resolution to fund the government beyond September 30 |
| 09/22/2025 - 09/26/2025  | District work week                                                                                                     |
| 10/01/2025 - 10/03/2025  | District work period                                                                                                   |
| 11/10/2025 - 11/14/2025  | District work week                                                                                                     |
| 11/24/2025 - 11/28/2025  | Congressional Recess: Thanksgiving Holiday                                                                             |
| November – December 2025 | Congress works until FY 2026 Appropriations are complete                                                               |
| December 19, 2025        | Target end date of the First Session of the 119 <sup>th</sup> Congress                                                 |