



## 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