



FINAL DRAFT 2026 FEDERAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM

CORE PRINCIPLES

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.”

~~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~~

DRAFT 2026 FEDERAL ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Identify and secure long-term funding for...

1. Our priorities in surface transportation reauthorization legislation. This includes, but is not limited to, **maintaining or increasing** funding levels for transit capital programs, including the **Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program and Urbanized Area Formula Grants**
2. The delivery of **safe**, reliable, ~~equitable, accessible~~, and affordable public transportation **that is accessible to all**
3. Workforce recruitment, training, development, retention, safety, ~~wellness~~, and well-being
4. **Transit and maintenance operations, paratransit program needs**, priority capital projects, and ridership ~~recovery~~ **growth**
- ~~5. Transit operations~~
6. Addressing the District's projected ~~post-pandemic and inflation-induced~~ operating deficits
7. Sustaining and growing federal investments in ~~bus and~~ transit infrastructure, **buses, and amenities**
8. Investments that protect and enhance the resiliency of the District's physical, cybersecurity, operational, and human assets
9. **Continued investment in the District's clean propulsion technology program**
- ~~10. Comprehensive sustainability initiatives, including but not limited to zero-emission bus and paratransit program needs~~
- ~~11. 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~~ **financial sustainability**
2. Support transportation workforce development, training, and safety
3. Respond to customer needs and ~~result in increased~~ **grow** transit ridership
4. Support innovative technology initiatives, partnerships, and investments that benefit public transit and **increase grow** ridership

5. Support efforts to grow and stabilize the Highway Trust Fund and preserve, at a minimum, the 20 percent allocation to the Mass Transit Account
6. Reduce **or remove** regulatory barriers to efficiently develop and deliver District projects and services
7. Avoid new, unfunded mandates and regulations
8. ~~Require direct and equal representation of transit properties on Metropolitan Planning Organizations~~
9. **Ensure public transit agencies with independently elected governing boards have a voting seat(s) on the Board of a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**
10. **Require the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to jointly establish an appeals process for MPO actions that procedurally violate Federal law or regulations**
11. Support the ~~provision of~~ **District's zero-emission clean propulsion technology** bus and paratransit vehicle service ~~and programming~~
12. ~~Promote~~ **Make** equitable access to transportation **safe and accessible to all** ~~and prioritize underserved and disadvantaged communities~~

DRAFT 2026 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR*All dates approximate pending release of the 2026 legislative calendar*

01/03/2026	Congress Reconvenes
01/19/2026	MLK Jr. Day
02/03/2026	President's FY 2026 budget request sent to Congress
02/16/26 – 02/20/2026	Congressional Recess: President's Day Holiday (House only)
March 2026	Congress begins FY 2027 Appropriations hearings
03/30/2026 – 04/10/2026	Congressional Recess: Spring Holiday
05/25/2026 – 05/29/2026	Congressional Recess: Memorial Day Holiday
06/29/2026 – 07/03/2026	Congressional Recess: Fourth of July Holiday
08/3/2026 – 09/01/2026	Congressional Summer Recess
September 2026	Congress finalizes FY 2027 Appropriations or passes a Continuing Resolution to fund the government beyond September 30
10/26/2026 – 11/04/2026	Congressional recess for Member campaigning
11/3/2026	Election Day
11/23/2026 – 11/27/2026	Congressional Recess: Thanksgiving Holiday
November – December 2026	Congress works until FY 2027 Appropriations are complete
December 18, 2026	Target end date of the 119 th Congress