

Jean Walsh, AC Transit Board Director, Ward 2  
American Public Transit Association (APTA) Legislative Conference  
Washington, DC  
April 7-9, 2024

### Key Themes

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)
  - BIL was a historic investment into transit. 65 billion!
  - BIL is in the third year and bill reauthorization is on the horizon
  - BIL needs to be the “new normal” in terms of transit funding
  - Need a pipeline of projects that are ready to go
  - Application process needs streamlining
  - Need to show outcomes of funding investments
  - APTA has launched a new marketing campaign highlighting the economic benefits of transit investment, aiming to appeal to a bipartisan audience
- US bus manufacturing crisis
  - Only two US bus manufacturers left - New Flyer and Gillig
  - Biden administration taking the issue seriously
  - APTA has formed a task force to strengthen the bus manufacturing industry

### Other points

- US transit ridership overall at 79% of pre pandemic levels. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) is 100% of 2019 levels.
- WMATA - highest ever customer satisfaction, ridership **above** pre pandemic levels
- APTA legislative letter re operator assaults:  
[https://www.apta.com/wp-content/uploads/APTA\\_COMMENTS\\_FTA\\_General\\_Directive\\_Transit\\_Worker\\_Assaults\\_Final\\_02-20-2024.pdf](https://www.apta.com/wp-content/uploads/APTA_COMMENTS_FTA_General_Directive_Transit_Worker_Assaults_Final_02-20-2024.pdf)

### Official Meetings

Purpose: to highlight AC Transit's NoLo grant application to secure \$40M for ZEB conversion

- Paul Kincaid, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Associate Administrator for Communications and Congressional Affairs
- US Representative John Garamendi (D-CA District 8)
- US Senator Alex Padilla's office

### Panel and session highlights

- “How to build support for transit investment among those who do not use it” panel with David Zipper, Nat Ford (CEO Jacksonville Transportation Authority)
- "Fireside chat" with US Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR District 3)



Meeting with Representative John Garamendi

Meeting with Senator Alex Padilla's office



"We are stepping up fare enforcement" sign on Metro rail

Safer Stops sign seen at Metro bus.

"Late night bus travels? Ask your Metrobus operator for a Courtesy Stop to ensure a safer journey home."



Metro ambassador helping a customer with wayfinding

"Do it Yourself" bus stop seating seen in Bethesda, MD

