



## 2022 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 accessibility, diversity, equity, and inclusion;
  - b. combating racism 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 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. Enacting the *Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act* and other legislation that supports public transit infrastructure.
3. Full implementation of the District’s zero emission bus (ZEB) rollout plan.
4. The creation of an advanced workforce training facility and program to provide zero-emission technological skills for transit workers.
5. Apprenticeship, workforce development and workforce training programs.
6. Increasing operating costs without jeopardizing total funding available for capital projects.
7. Ongoing operations and maintenance of District facilities and key programs.
8. All hazards strategies that protect and make more resilient the District’s physical and cyber infrastructure and its human resources.
9. Initiatives that enhance fare payment options and support broad-based access to public transit, including reduced or fare free service.
10. Innovative technology initiatives, partnerships, and investments that support public transit.
11. Accessible fixed route and paratransit services and infrastructure.
12. Projects that deliver key intermodal connections for AC Transit service.
13. Maintaining a state of good repair and adding buses back into service.
14. 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 continued guaranteed funding for transit from the Highway Trust Fund/Mass Transit Account and, at a minimum, the 80/20 split for highways and transit.
2. Index transportation revenue sources to keep pace with inflation.
3. Do not require 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. Allow and fund local labor workforce minimums for construction projects financed by Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grants.
8. Provide incentives for employees and employers to use public transportation to commute to work.
9. Maintain the tax exemption on municipal bonds and restore the tax exemption for advance refunding bonds.
10. Streamline or eliminate outdated, irrelevant, or onerous regulatory requirements that impede the District's ability to conduct its operations and/or deliver transportation services.
11. Facilitate new mobility collaborations, "smart cities" initiatives, first/last mile solutions, and data sharing agreements that reduce reliance on vehicles and promote increased public transit ridership.
12. Allocate dedicated radio frequency spectrum to public transportation.
13. Allow for direct representation of transit districts on Metropolitan Planning Organizations.
14. Provide funding and improve coordination between federal health agencies and transit operators to provide services to clients, including the accessible community.

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

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

1. Designate public transit employees as essential workers and prioritize resources to them, including hazard duty/ premium pay.

## **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: 2022 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR***All dates approximate pending adoption of the 2022 legislative calendar.*

01/03/22	Congress reconvenes
01/17/22 – 01/21/22	Congressional Recess: Martin Luther King Day Holiday
02/07/22	President's FY 2023 budget request sent to Congress
02/21/22 – 02/25/22	Congressional Recess: President's Day Holiday
March 2022	Congress begins FY 2023 Appropriations hearings
03/27/22 – 04/04/22	Congressional Recess (TBD): Jewish Holidays
04/17/22 – 04/23/22	Congressional Recess: Easter Holiday
05/30/22 – 06/03/22	Congressional Recess: Memorial Day Holiday
07/04/22 – 08/31/22	Congressional Summer Recess
September 2022	Congress finalizes FY 2023 Appropriations or passes a Continuing Resolution to fund the government beyond September 30
October 2022	Congress will recess in early October to campaign for November elections
11/08/2022	Mid-Term Elections
November 2022	Lame duck session weeks of November 7 or November 14
December	Congress works until FY 2023 Appropriations are complete