



## 2021 FEDERAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM

### **FUNDING**

1. Engage Congress and the Administration to secure new emergency and stimulus funding to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the District's budget, operational capacity, and to support local economic recovery.
2. Support/seek additional COVID-19 pandemic relief funding, including assistance at 100% federal share.
3. Support reauthorization of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and legislation that increases funding for transit infrastructure.
4. Secure federal grant funding opportunities for key capital projects and project priorities including:
  - a. Rehabilitation, expansion, and replacement of aging buses, facilities, technologies and equipment and maintain in a state of good repair;
  - b. The Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program, Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program, and other programs;
  - c. Security cameras and wireless access technologies for buses and facilities; and
  - d. Integration of innovative mobility tools such as, but not limited to, transit only lanes and demand-responsive bus services.
5. Advocate for supplemental funding through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to offset rising operating costs without jeopardizing total funding available for capital projects.
6. Support/seek funding for operation and maintenance of the Salesforce Transit Center, the Tempo bus rapid transit (BRT) system, and the District's on-demand Flex bus service.
7. Support/seek additional funding for essential services including, but not limited to services for access to work, school or medical facilities.
8. Support/seek additional funding for accessible fixed route and paratransit services.
9. Secure funding to support delivery of the District's zero emission bus (ZEB) rollout plan, inclusive of ZEB bus purchases, workforce training programs and facility and infrastructure upgrades.
10. Support policy initiatives that relieve the undue burden of mandatory regulations by requiring all mandates be fully funded to protect the fiscal integrity of the District, including Safety Management Systems (SMS), Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP), State of Good Repair, asset management plans, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

11. Support federal funds to deploy 5G wireless technologies for buses and facilities.
12. Seek funding to support the development and deployment of emergency preparedness and cybersecurity strategies for protecting transit related critical infrastructure.
13. Support legislation, regulatory decisions and/or administrative actions that do not require a local match when utilizing federal funds.
14. Support legislation that designates public transit employees as essential workers and prioritizes resources to them, including hazard duty/ premium pay for employees required to serve the community through the COVID-19 pandemic.
15. Secure funding to continue the District's partnership with community food delivery services to assist area residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.
16. Support/seek additional COVID-19 pandemic relief funding to cover the increased cost of operational expenses, and advocate for the conversion of capital funds to support operating purposes.
17. Support/seek capital funding for projects that provide key intermodal connections for AC Transit service, and which enhance the livability of communities by offering multiple transportation options.

### **TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZATION PRINCIPLES**

1. Advocate for the inclusion of transit buses and infrastructure, with increased federal funding, in any initiative by Congress and the Administration.
2. Ensure that alternative financing proposals do not replace current funding for transit from the Highway Trust Fund.
3. Preserve continued guaranteed funding for transit from the Highway Trust Fund/Mass Transit Account and oppose any efforts to change the 80/20 split for highways and transit that would reduce funding for transit.
4. Support permanent reinstatement of the Alternative Fuel Tax Credit and extension of the credit to include electricity and hydrogen, used in transit vehicles, as an eligible alternative transportation fuel.
5. Support funding solutions that generate new revenues that include the gas tax, carbon tax, and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) tax to replenish and sustain long-term growth of the Highway Trust Fund/Mass Transit Account. This includes ensuring that revenue sources are indexed to keep pace with inflation.
6. Support FTA and Congressional efforts to increase funding and make State of Good Repair for transit bus systems a strategic priority.

7. Support legislation for direct representation of transit districts on Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).
8. Support legislation through the federal highway and transportation authorization for safety management system requirements based on agency size and transportation mode.
9. Support efforts to permit local labor workforce minimums for construction projects funded by Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grants.
10. Support legislation that expands eligibility and priority for projects that increase ridership through improved intermodal connections and contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases.

### **OTHER TRANSPORTATION RELATED ADVOCACY**

1. Monitor and support efforts to advance racial justice and transportation equity through federal transportation policy.
2. Support funding and coordination between federal health agencies and transportation agencies to provide services to clients, including support for the FTA's Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM).
3. Preserve modal parity by maintaining the commuter tax benefit and reinstating the ability of employers to deduct the cost of this benefit.
4. Support efforts to offer commuter benefits incentives as an alternative to commuting by personal vehicle, and ensure those benefits continue to be provided to employees required to work remotely.
5. Advocate for maintaining the tax exemption on municipal bonds.
6. Advocate for restoring the tax exemption for advance refunding bonds.
7. Advocate for funding of infrastructure improvements covered by the ADA.
8. Advocate for transit-supportive laws, regulations, and policies that prioritize environmental justice, provide funding to address climate change, and foster healthy communities and environments.
9. Support efforts that allow for greater flexibility to the FTA's 20% spare ratio requirement.
10. Monitor legislation or regulations related to emerging mobility services and shared data that can be used for public transportation and operational purposes.
11. Support legislation that requires shared mobility providers and transportation network companies (TNCs) to provide anonymous trip-level data to public transit providers, which can be used for transportation planning and operational purposes.

12. Oppose efforts that undermine the authority of states and localities to enact their own regulations related to autonomous vehicles (AVs).
13. Support funding that invests in general apprenticeship, workforce development and workforce training programs.
14. Support efforts to develop and deploy new transit data management platforms.
15. Support funding to deploy new video security technologies including video analytics and collision avoidance systems.
16. Support funding for collaboration with technology companies to develop innovative public transit hardware and software solutions.
17. Seek regulatory relief from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) for maintaining Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) examiner status of trainers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
18. Support efforts to streamline the National Environmental Policy Act's (NEPA) environmental review process and expedite the approval of transportation-related projects that are categorically excluded from review (i.e., those having no significant environmental impact).

#### **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 encourages a decrease in federal clauses and consistency of requirements for federally funded procurements.