

# Invest in Public Transportation for a Stronger America

*Infrastructure Initiative Recommendations Approved by APTA's Board of Directors*



AMERICAN  
PUBLIC  
TRANSPORTATION  
ASSOCIATION

***The American Public Transportation Association  
Urges the Trump Administration and  
Congress to Dramatically Increase the  
Current Federal Investment Levels in Support of  
the Nation's Public Transportation  
and Intercity Passenger Rail Systems***



- The cornerstone of President Donald Trump's economic blueprint is to revitalize and expand America's infrastructure.
- Investments in the nation's public transportation infrastructure are critical for economic growth and make the U.S. more competitive in international markets. They create jobs, produce a safer, more efficient transportation system, connect people with jobs and employers with potential workers, and support national priorities.
- APTA strongly supports the proposals to rehabilitate, revitalize and expand the nation's public transportation infrastructure and improve transportation options for all Americans.
- Residential and commercial real estate values increase when such properties are located near good, high-frequency public transportation service.
- APTA urges the Trump Administration and Congress to dramatically increase the current federal investment levels in support of the nation's public transportation and intercity passenger rail systems.
- This increased federal investment in public transportation and intercity passenger rail systems is an essential strategy to sustain and enhance the United States' global economic competitiveness and complements the unprecedented contributions already made by states and local governments to operate and maintain these services.
- The U.S. Department of Transportation has identified a backlog of nearly \$90 billion in capital investments needed to bring bus and rail systems into a state of good repair, although other estimates suggest this number is higher.
- Increased investment should support the replacement of aging and over-age equipment with more modern buses, trains, and facilities, and address the growing demand, in communities of all sizes throughout the country, for new and expanded rail, ferryboat, and bus capacity.

## RECOMMENDED PROGRAM PRINCIPLES FOR A NEW/ ENHANCED FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE – PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL

- A national focus on revitalizing our infrastructure requires significant federal investment as its foundation. Dedicated and sustained funding must be a federal priority to achieve the goal of renewing and expanding our nation's public transportation systems and assuring America's competitiveness.
- A new Federal Infrastructure Initiative should complement and utilize programs authorized under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act).
- A new Federal Infrastructure Initiative should allow for accelerated review and approval processes to speed project delivery and better leverage federal resources.
- APTA supports public and private finance tools and welcomes the opportunity to work with the Trump Administration and Congress to foster private participation in project financing and delivery in the public interest.
- APTA urges the Trump Administration and Congress to provide sustained and dedicated revenues to ensure the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund and the surface transportation programs it funds.
- Investment should also include funds for innovative mobility, workforce development and research that will encourage utilizing advanced technologies to position the nation's transportation infrastructure for the future.
- Investments should create new jobs, inclusion, shared prosperity and private sector growth.

### **Program Elements: State of Good Repair and Capacity Investments:**

- Provide increased funding for existing rail state of good repair program.
- Provide increased funding for existing bus and bus facilities program (distribution under current formula/ discretionary programs).
- Provide increased funding for all existing transit formula programs based on current proportions to meet needs in every community.
- Provide increased funding for new capacity projects.
- Provide increased funding for Intercity Passenger Rail (including PTC eligibility).
- Provide increased funding for Workforce Development & Research.
- Create a new competitive grant program for capital Bus and Rail State of Good Repair, and other capacity expansion projects.



# ABOUT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION (APTA)

APTA is a nonprofit international association of 1,500 public and private sector organizations that are involved in the planning, building and operation of all modes of public transportation – bus, paratransit, light and commuter rail, intercity and high-speed passenger rail, subways and ferries. APTA members serve the public interest by providing safe, efficient and economical transit services and products.

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**COMMUNITY GROWS**