March 19, 2018

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2358 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Price  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Price:

As you prepare the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2019 (FY 2019), we write to request funding for the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) Capital Investment Grant Program (CIG), commonly known as New Starts, Small Starts, and Core Capacity, at the FAST Act authorized level of $2.3 billion. We also request that you continue to support the 56 projects in the CIG pipeline and urge the Secretary of Transportation to sign construction grant agreements when project sponsors have met all their requirements to execute the agreement.

The CIG program is critical to communities with transit investments that are either already constructed or planned—generating regional economic benefits, attracting businesses to the project corridor, connecting workers to their employers, and relieving freight congestion chokepoints. The benefits of a project extend well beyond the project corridor: nearly 73 percent of the funds from the CIG program flow directly to the private sector via manufacturers, suppliers, and service firms located in nearly every congressional district in the United States.

Local taxpayers rely on the federal government to be a strong partner by providing capital funds. Before a project is recommended to Congress for a Full Funding Grant Agreement, it is subject to a multi-year, multi-step extensive and rigorous review. We urge you to respect that process and give direction to the FTA to continue to rate, evaluate, and recommend projects for funding that are already in the pipeline.

We therefore urge you to fund the CIG program at $2.3 billion in FY 2019, continue to support projects in the CIG pipeline, and urge the Secretary of Transportation to sign construction grant agreements when project sponsors have met their requirements.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

[Signature]
Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress
Will Hurd
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress
Andrew Carson  
Member of Congress

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

John Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

Alcee Hastings  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

Daniel W. Lipinski  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress

Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson  
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

C.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Tim Walz
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Joe Crowley
Member of Congress
Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

Scott Peters  
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.  
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Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

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Marc Veasey  
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Norma J. Torres  
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Beto O’Rourke
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Chris Collins
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress