The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

September 10, 2018

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write to express our concern with the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) delay in obligating appropriated funds for the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) Program and urge you to immediately begin entering into new Full Funding and Small Starts Grant Agreements for projects that have met all requirements. Should these delays continue, we will push for more strict obligating requirements in any Consolidated Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations bill.

Year after year, Congress has reaffirmed its commitment to transit capital projects – most recently in March 2018 when Congress passed and the President agreed to the highest-ever CIG funding level and directed the Secretary of Transportation to administer the program “in accordance with the procedural and substantive requirements of section 5309 of [Title 49, U.S.C.].” Yet nearly six months later, the FTA has stalled projects past their anticipated receipt of full funding grant agreements which has contributed to the project delays, cost overruns, and red tape so frequently excoriated by this administration.

Throughout its existence, the CIG program has generated regional economic benefits, attracted businesses to project corridors, connected workers to their employers, and relieved freight congestion chokepoints. The benefits of a project also extend well beyond the project corridor. Across the country, local taxpayers have already stepped up to support transit projects and are relying on the federal government to be a strong partner, rather than inject uncertainty.

We urge you fulfill your promises and immediately begin entering into new Full Funding and Small Start Grant Agreements.

Sincerely,

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Val Demings  
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

Ruben J. Kihuen  
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

John Lewis  
Member of Congress

Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress

Denny Heck  
Member of Congress
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Andre Carson
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress
Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress

Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Cc: K. Jane Williams, Acting Administrator, Federal Transit Administration