



# GETTING AMERICA TO WORK

July 8, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner (R-OH)  
Speaker  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell (R-KY)  
Majority Leader  
S-230 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)  
Minority Leader  
H-204 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid (D-NV)  
Minority Leader  
S-221 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Reid:

As Congress considers the future of transportation policy in the United States, the Advisory Board members of the Getting America To Work (GATW) coalition urge you to pass a long-term, surface transportation bill that provides robust funding for the nation's public transit networks. A long-term bill will give transit agencies the certainty they need to invest in the critical infrastructure upgrades required for local economies to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In 2014, transit ridership reached record levels, with nearly 11 billion rides taken throughout the United States. Citizens in cities big and small are increasingly dependent on local transit agencies for reliable and affordable transportation to work, school, the doctor and everywhere in between. However, with numerous short-term extensions of federal transportation programs and stagnant growth in transportation funding, agencies across the nation have struggled to meet increased demand. The two stopgap measures that Congress has passed since the expiration of MAP-21 in 2014 have resulted in uncertainty and not sufficiently addressed the dire needs of the nation's infrastructure. The wear and tear on our nation's roads, bridges and rail lines has reached concerning levels.

The GATW coalition, which is made up of over 100 transit agencies, transit advocacy groups and councils of government from across the United States, sees firsthand every day the continuing degradation of the nation's infrastructure. Since being established in 2012, GATW and its member organizations have been advocating for Congress to address the issue by making sustainable investments in transportation infrastructure so that it can be brought into a state of good repair. Our customers deserve transit networks that rival the greatest in the world, and with smart policies, we can achieve that goal.

Federal transportation funding has long enjoyed bipartisan support. With expiration of the latest extension of MAP-21 coming before the August recess, GATW urges Congress to come together on this critical issue and quickly pass a long-term bill that will restore the engine of the American economy: our transit networks, roads and bridges.



# GETTING AMERICA TO WORK

We look forward to working with you in the coming weeks as the debate over the future of transportation policy in the United States continues.

Sincerely yours,  
The Getting America To Work Advisory Board

Kristen Joyner  
Executive Director  
South West Transit Association

Leanne Redden  
Executive Director  
Chicago Regional Transportation Association

Jim Hartnett  
CEO  
San Mateo County Transit District

Leeann MacWilliams  
Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Public Transit Association

Keith Parker  
CEO  
Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority

Doug Allen  
CEO  
Virginia Railway Express

cc:

Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA), House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (D-OR), House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI), House Ways and Means Committee  
Ranking Member Sander Levin (D-MI), House Ways and Means Committee  
Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL), Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
Chairman James Inhofe (R-OK), Senate Environment and Public Works  
Ranking Member Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Senate Environment and Public Works  
Chairman John Thune (R-SD), Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee  
Ranking Member Bill Nelson (D-FL), Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee  
Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Senate Finance Committee  
Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR), Senate Finance Committee