



June 16, 2020

The Honorable Peter DeFazio, Committee Chair
The Honorable Sam Graves, Committee Ranking Member
The Honorable Eleanor Norton Holmes, Subcommittee Chair
The Honorable Rodney Davis, Subcommittee Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C.

Dear Representatives DeFazio, Graves, Delegate Norton Holmes, and Representative Davis,

I write on behalf of Transportation Riders United (TRU) to express our support for the INVEST in America Act introduced to the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure last week. This bill provides a great start towards updating our country's outdated transportation policy toward the outcomes Americans value.

TRU believes everyone should have access to the places they need to go, regardless of whether they drive. Here in the Motor City, far too many people are stuck without that access, instead spending hours waiting on slow buses or wasting thousands on unaffordable vehicles which hold back their opportunities. Through education, engagement, and advocacy, we fight for more and better public transit and other sustainable mobility options.

We applaud the alignment of this new policy direction with the principles put forward by Transportation for America for a transportation system works for people—with infrastructure in good condition, safer roadway design that will save lives, and access to jobs and services through multiple modes of travel.

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We especially applaud the requirement of measuring how well systems provide access for people who don't drive – because quick-moving car traffic is NOT an effective measure for access to opportunity, especially for people of color and low income families. It is important to penalize agencies that fail to improve access for people who don't drive.

While we strongly support the direction this bill takes, we urge you to further increase funding for transit, which has been so long neglected, especially in central parts of the U.S. We also ask that you tighten the language that ensures funds not be spent on roadway widening before maintenance needs are met.

Thank you and your entire team for your excellent work shaping this legislation that has just great potential to transform American transportation.

Sincerely,



Megan Owens
Executive Director

