

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515–1304**

July 27, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear President Biden, Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Senate Minority Leader McConnell, and House Minority Leader McCarthy:

As negotiations on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework and the reconciliation package continue, we are writing to make clear how important it is that any final bill addresses two of the most significant challenges facing our nation today: **climate change** and **racial equity**. The transportation sector is the largest generator of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States; and a lack of safe, accessible, and affordable transportation has cut many Black and brown neighborhoods off from economic opportunity. To meet the moment, we need bold federal action, such as provided for in the INVEST Act, to modernize our transportation policy. Key to this is ensuring public transportation is incorporated and properly funded in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework and the reconciliation package.

In this context, 20 percent of **guaranteed** funding and contract authority from the Highway Trust Fund for transit is simply insufficient. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework and reconciliation package must include a baseline threshold for transit funding that provides a pathway for parity with the level of funding for roads and bridges. This is especially true now given that the economy is still recovering, and many Americans have been out of work. Further, there is a need to address \$105 billion in backlog state of repair needs and a need to modernize and electrify transit systems. This minimum 20 percent level of investment is a 40-year-old precedent that, frankly, is not up to 21st century needs and demands. For the past 40 years, transit has received only \$1 for every \$4 that has gone to highways. This imbalance has led to inadequate transit service, pushing consumers toward solo driving — a huge financial and climate burden especially to our most vulnerable, marginalized communities.

If we are serious about mitigating climate change and ensuring equitable access to economic opportunity, we cannot keep prioritizing highways over transit – and therefore the 20 percent status quo must go. To meet this country’s climate goals and avoid catastrophic consequences from climate change, transit funding must be significantly increased in the BIF to match the percentage provided in the House’s INVEST in America Act. At the same time, we must ensure there is a pathway for transit funding to reach parity with the level of funding for roads and bridges through reconciliation or alternative legislation. To ensure adequate funding, the House must have the opportunity to build on the Senate’s proposals and deliver the investments that match the scale of our communities’ needs.

There is also a need to craft a Surface Transportation Authorization within the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill to move the needle forward on rebuilding and modernizing America’s transportation infrastructure. However, we only move backwards if we abjectly fail to incorporate public transit provisions in the bill that at bare minimum, call for at least 20 percent of guaranteed funding from the Highway Trust Fund. The idea that we would retreat from that level — a level established under Ronald Reagan — when we are claiming to invest in economic recovery, address catastrophic global climate change, and finally address the racial inequities of our transportation system strains credulity.

We must do better. We must seize the moment through bold and transformative investments in public transportation. This once-in-a-generation chance to address climate change and racial inequities must not go to waste.

Sincerely,



Representative Henry C. “Hank” Johnson Jr.



Representative Jesús G. "Chuy" García

/s/  
Ayanna Pressley  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/  
Barbara Lee  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/  
Jared Huffman  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/  
Yvette D. Clarke  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/  
Dina Titus  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/  
Debbie Dingell  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/  
Sheila Jackson Lee  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/  
Cori Bush  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/  
Jan Schakowsky  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/  
Anthony G. Brown  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Julia Brownley  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Rashida Tlaib  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Bonnie Watson Coleman  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Jake Auchincloss  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Carolyn B. Maloney  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

André Carson  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Al Green  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Steve Cohen  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Ritchie Torres  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Emanuel Cleaver, II  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Gwen S. Moore  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Jerry McNerney  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Raúl M. Grijalva  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Frederica S. Wilson  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Earl Blumenauer  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Adriano Espaillat  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Alan Lowenthal  
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/s/

Dwight Evans  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Albio Sires  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Seth Moulton  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Ilhan Omar  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Pramila Jayapal  
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/s/

Thomas R. Suozzi  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Melanie Stansbury  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Jerrold Nadler  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Karen Bass  
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/s/

Bennie Thompson  
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/s/

Marie Newman  
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/s/

Brendan F. Boyle  
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/s/

Mark DeSaulnier  
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Gregory W. Meeks  
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/s/

Danny K. Davis  
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Mark Pocan  
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/s/

Brad Sherman  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Maxine Waters  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Marilyn Strickland  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Nydia M. Velázquez  
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/s/

Grace Meng  
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/s/

Brenda L. Lawrence  
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/s/

Ro Khanna  
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/s/

Nikema Williams  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Adam Smith  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Lisa Blunt Rochester  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

/s/

Stephen F. Lynch  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Cc: Sherrod Brown, Chair, Senate Committee on Banking, Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs  
Maria Cantwell, Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
Tom Carper, Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Peter DeFazio, Chair, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure