



National Association of
City Transportation Officials

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Executive Director

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The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

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

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

Dear President Biden, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader Schumer,

On behalf of our 86 member cities and transit agencies, **the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) greatly appreciates your inclusion of \$30.5 billion in aid for transit and \$45.5 billion for metropolitan cities in the American Rescue Plan Act.** This long-needed infusion of federal support will allow the cities and transit agencies on the frontlines of the public health and economic crises to stem ongoing losses and preserve essential jobs, and enhance city services.

The pandemic created major financial and logistical challenges for local governments and transit agencies. Over the past year, cities of all sizes have been forced to cut budgets, lay off staff, and consider cuts to the programs and services residents rely upon. The \$65 billion in aid for local governments in the American Rescue Plan will be key for reviving city economies, particularly those of the large and mid-sized cities that serve as the population, employment, and commercial centers of their states and regions. The provisions in this legislation distributing aid directly to metropolitan cities and allowing local governments to use federal funds to backfill lost revenues are especially critical for creating a foundation for cities to provide expanded services in the future.

Similarly, your support for transit is greatly appreciated. The transit industry experienced its biggest crisis in decades characterized by dramatic losses in ridership and revenue. The \$30.5 billion in additional aid to transit agencies in the Rescue Plan will prevent debilitating cuts to service and help cover projected funding shortfalls through 2023. These funds will also ensure that reliable, safe transit service is available to transit-reliant riders, a necessary component of a just recovery.

NACTO commends the administration and Congressional leaders for taking a long-term view of the needs facing local governments and transit agencies, and providing a level of aid that reflects the scale of the ongoing crisis. As you continue the crucial work of leading the country out of the pandemic, NACTO is pleased to extend our support and partnership to build a more resilient, equitable future.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corinne", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Corinne Kisner
Executive Director, NACTO