



National Association of
City Transportation Officials

120 Park Avenue, 21st Floor
New York, NY 10017
nacto@nacto.org

Corinne Kisner
Executive Director

www.nacto.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Michael Carroll
President
Deputy Managing Director,
Office of Transportation and
Infrastructure Systems, City of
Philadelphia

Veronica O. Davis
Vice President
Director of Transportation & Drainage
Operations, City of Houston

Robert Spillar
Treasurer
Director of Transportation, City of Austin

Gia Biagi
Treasurer
Commissioner, Chicago Department of
Transportation

Ryan Russo
Affiliate Member Representative
Director, Oakland Department of
Transportation

Janette Sadik-Khan
Chair
Principal, Bloomberg Associates

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 28, 2022

Dear President Biden and Secretary Buttigieg:

Last November, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) became law. This legislation promised to deliver historic levels of investment in the country’s transportation systems, from bridges to electrification to transit. As this Administration continues the critical work of implementing the IIJA, **we write to share our support for your commitment to ensuring the funding authorized by this legislation supports an equitable, safe, and climate-resilient future.**

The undersigned transportation agencies build and maintain the roads, sidewalks, bike lanes, and transit routes that serve half of U.S. residents. Our agencies are responsible for implementing projects and programs created by the IIJA. We urge the White House and USDOT to follow through on campaign promises to address climate change and racial inequity, fix our crumbling infrastructure, develop high-quality and widely-available transit, and provide all Americans with a clean, safe, and resilient transportation system via the following steps:

Encourage responsible use of formula funds.

The infrastructure bill presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform the nation’s infrastructure for the better. However, a business-as-usual approach to spending these funds will only exacerbate the many crises plaguing the transportation sector. If spent primarily on expanding highway capacity, transportation emissions will exceed already unacceptably-high levels and ultimately undermine greenhouse gas reduction targets. NACTO cities support the approach to spending formula funds outlined in FHWA’s December 2021 administrative guidance on implementing the IIJA. We share Deputy Administrator Pollack’s vision for a transportation network that “provides people with better choices across all modes, is more sustainable and resilient to a changing climate, and is more equitable.”

Actions such as repairing existing roads over building new ones, freeing climate-friendly projects like bus and bike lanes from burdensome environmental reviews,

and flexing highway funds to transit—a longstanding but underutilized flexibility in transportation funding—can help align transportation spending to national goals and to the crises we face. We encourage the Administration to publicly track how federal formula funds are spent to promote accountability and ensure this guidance is followed.

Reward projects aligned with national priorities.

NACTO cities applaud USDOT’s intention to leverage over \$100 billion in discretionary grant programs to advance progressive and practical transportation goals, from bringing the nation’s bridges into a state of good repair to improving safety outcomes for people walking, biking, and taking transit. The recently-announced RAISE grant winners will dedicate federal funds towards projects that directly address the safety, climate, and equity crises that America faces today while improving quality of life in communities across the country. These projects—and the process for selecting them—provide a model for the many new grant programs under USDOT’s jurisdiction.

Fully fund promising new programs.

Much of this Administration’s agenda rests on successful implementation of the IIJA. However, procedural challenges are hurting USDOT’s ability to disburse new funding and set up key programs, including the Carbon Reduction formula program and the Safe Streets and Roads for All discretionary grant program. We call upon White House officials to do everything in their power to broker agreement on an appropriations bill that fully funds IIJA programs at their authorized levels and allows USDOT to implement them in a timely manner. Long delays undermine the Administration and cities’ shared vision for this legislation and the potential for a cleaner, safer transportation system it holds.

The resources unlocked by the IIJA must prioritize infrastructure that is resilient to dangerous climate change, accounts for the safety of vulnerable road users, reconnects communities, enhances access to opportunity, and enables widespread adoption of zero-emission technologies. The undersigned city officials are encouraged by and applaud this Administration’s leadership to date in service of our shared goals. We strongly support further efforts in service of these priorities and will continue to support this critical work.

Sincerely,

Rob Spillar, P.E.
Director, Austin Transportation Department
Austin, TX

Steve Sharkey
Director, Baltimore City Department of
Transportation
Baltimore, MD

Andrew Singelakis
Transportation Director, City of Bellevue
Bellevue, WA

Jascha Franklin-Hodge
Chief of Streets, Transportation, and
Sanitation, City of Boston
Boston, MA

Joseph E. Barr
Director of Traffic, Parking, and
Transportation, City of Cambridge
Cambridge, MA

Gia Biagi
Commissioner, Chicago Department of
Transportation
Chicago, IL

Jennifer Gallagher
Director, Columbus Department of Public
Service
Columbus, OH

Sean C. Egan
Director of Transportation, City of Durham
Durham, NC

Hans Larsen
Public Works Director
Fremont, CA

Ryan Sharp, P.P., AICP
Director of Transportation and Parking, City of
Hoboken
Hoboken, NJ

Veronica O. Davis, P.E.
Director, Transportation & Drainage
Operations
Houston, TX

Seleta Reynolds
General Manager, Los Angeles Department of
Transportation
Los Angeles, CA

Brette Hjelle
Interim Director, Public Works
Minneapolis, MN

Ydanis Rodriguez
Commissioner, New York City Department of
Transportation
New York, NY

Laura Rubio-Cornejo
Director of Transportation, City of Pasadena,
Department of Transportation
Pasadena, CA

Ron Brundidge
Director, City of Detroit Department of Public
Works
Detroit, MI

Tanya Brooks
Assistant Director, Traffic Management
Division
Fort Worth, TX

Nat Gale
Director of Capital Projects and Operations
Hartford, CT

J. Roger Morton
Director, City and County of Honolulu
Department of Transportation Services
Honolulu, HI

Eric Lopez
Director of Public Works, City of Long Beach
Long Beach, CA

Yang Tao, PhD, PE
City Traffic Engineer, City of Madison Traffic
Engineering Division
Madison, WI

Diana W. Alarcon
Director of Transportation and Multimodal
Infrastructure, Metro Nashville-Davidson
County
Nashville, TN

Ryan Russo
Director, City of Oakland, Department of
Transportation
Oakland, CA

Michael Carroll
Deputy Managing Director, City of
Philadelphia, Office of Transportation
Infrastructure and Sustainability
Philadelphia, PA

Kim Lucas
Acting Director, City of Pittsburgh,
Department of Mobility and Infrastructure
Pittsburgh, PA

Chris Warner
Director, City of Portland, Bureau of
Transportation
Portland, OR

Bonnie Nickerson
Director of Planning and Development, City of
Providence
Providence, RI

Ryan Moore
Director of Public Works, City of Sacramento
Sacramento, CA

Jorge Riveros
Director of Transportation, City of San Diego
San Diego, CA

Jeffrey Tumlin
Director of Transportation, San Francisco
Municipal Transportation Agency
San Francisco, CA

John Ristow
Director of Transportation, City of San Jose
Department of Transportation
San Jose, CA

Matt Horn
Director of Public Works, City of San Luis
Obispo
San Luis Obispo, CA

Kristen N. Simpson
Director (Interim), Seattle Department of
Transportation
Seattle, WA

Vik Bhide
Mobility Director, City of Tampa
Tampa, FL

Everett Lott
Director, District of Columbia Department of
Transportation
Washington, DC

cc:

White House Domestic Policy Council
White House Council on Environmental Quality
White House National Economic Council
Office of the Administrator, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)