April 1st, 2011

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Dicks, Subcommittee Chair Latham, Subcommittee Ranking Member Olver:

We, the undersigned organizations, call upon Congress to continue job-creating investment in our nation’s transportation network. As the House debates an appropriate level of funding for the Fiscal Year 2011 Continuing Resolution, Americans continue to go about their lives, commuting to work, school, and elsewhere on our nation’s crumbling infrastructure. Long, congested commutes and crowded buses and trains keep Americans stuck in traffic and spending more money on ever-rising gas prices with no end in sight.

Transportation investments are proven job creators, providing work to the hard-hit construction industry and creating long-term value to the economy. Investment in transportation programs today will help pull the economy out of its slump, while creating a better quality of life and healthier communities for your constituents. The cuts passed in H.R. 1 are particularly troublesome – targeting those very transportation projects that Americans rely on and slowing projects in the pipeline, further delaying construction job opportunities. We call on you to turn this tide, and ensure that the final Fiscal Year 2011 budget:

- Continues funding for the U.S. Department of Transportation’s TIGER program in FY11, which strengthens the economy, creates jobs, reduces gridlock, and provides safe, low-cost transportation choices to our citizens in metropolitan and rural areas.
- Restores the cuts in funding to Amtrak for capital projects, which provides important transportation links to small and large communities alike.
- Continues funding High Speed Rail projects, vital to providing high-speed transportation in high density and economically important corridors.
- Restores funding cuts to the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) New Starts program, which provides federal matching funds for development and construction of new public transit lines. These projects put people to work, provide low-cost transportation choices, improve our health and often leverage private investment along the corridors.
- Restores funding for FTA’s Energy Efficiency grants, which provides federal funds to help improve the energy efficiency of our nation’s transit systems in metropolitan and rural areas, lowering operating costs and reducing our dependency on oil.

We urge you to support these vital transportation programs in the FY2011 continuing resolution.

Sincerely,
Apollo Alliance
Alliance for Biking & Walking
Amalgamated Transit Union
Amtrak
American College of Sports Medicine
American Public Health Association
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living
Center for Rural Strategies
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Center for Social Inclusion
Defenders of Wildlife
Developing Communities Project
Environment America
Gamaliel Foundation
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
League of Conservation Voters
League of Rural Voters
LOCUS: Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors
National Association of City Transportation Officials
National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity
National Complete Streets Coalition
National Housing Conference
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Partnership for Prevention
Partnership for Working Families
Physicians for Social Responsibility
PolicyLink
Poverty and Race Research Action Council
Prevention Institute
Reconnecting America
Safe States Alliance
Smart Growth America
Transit for Livable Communities
Transport Workers Union
Transportation Equity Network
Upstream Public Health
U.S. PIRG
YouthBuild

cc:
Speaker of the House John A. Boehner
House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi