February 14, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

America’s transportation system is a matter of vital national importance, playing a critical role in our economic competitiveness and growth over the last fifty years. Yet our nation lacks a clearly articulated transportation vision to guide our future infrastructure investments. The current fiscal environment makes it more important than ever to spend transportation dollars in a manner that is both accountable and transparent.

For these reasons, we ask you to support the National Surface Transportation and Freight Policy Act (Title XII of S. 1950) as you consider the upcoming surface transportation authorization bill on the floor of the U.S. Senate. This legislation will help ensure we take the critical steps necessary to develop a performance-driven national transportation program. It will ensure a comprehensive national strategy for breaking gridlock, reducing fatality rates, reducing our dependence on foreign oil, and efficiently moving goods and people while improving access, quality of life, and public health.

For the first time in more than twenty years the surface transportation authorization bill being considered in Congress does not significantly increase transportation investments. Establishing a national vision and performance measures will help ensure that we are making the most of our limited transportation funds. We applaud the steps that have been taken by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the Senate Banking Committee to establish performance measures for the highway and transit programs respectively. The measures included in the National Surface Transportation and Freight Policy Act will help ensure we have overarching goals and objectives for our nation’s multimodal transportation system.

This Act also includes key provisions to improve the nation’s transportation system. It would help ensure that new transportation facilities built with federal funds will safely accommodate all users. This will help reduce traffic-related fatalities on our roadways, which totaled more than 411,000 over the last decade. The Act would also establish a multimodal grant program to help improve goods movement, which would award grants to projects using a merit-based process that considers mobility, innovation, environment and public health.

We hope that you will support the development of national transportation goals and objectives to ensure we are working to meet a national vision for our transportation system in addition to other important provisions in the National Surface Transportation and Freight Policy Act. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
CC: Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer
Environment and Public Works Committee Ranking Member James M. Inhofe
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Chairman John D. Rockefeller IV
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Ranking Member Kay Bailey Hutchison
Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus
Finance Committee Ranking Member Orrin G. Hatch
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Chairman Tim Johnson
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Ranking Member Richard C. Shelby

National Organizations

AARP
Alliance for Biking & Walking
America Bikes
American Public Health Association
The American Society of Landscape Architects
Amtrak
Association for Commuter Transportation
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)
Center for Neighborhood Technology
Center for Rural Strategies
CEOs for Cities
Congress for the New Urbanism
Gamaliel
Institute for Transportation & Development Policy
International Downtown Association
League of American Bicyclists
League of Conservation Voters
League of Rural Voters
LOCUS: Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors
National Association of City Transportation Officials

National Complete Streets Coalition
The National Council on Independent Living
National Housing Conference
Natural Resources Defense Council
PolicyLink
Rails to Trails Conservancy
Reconnecting America
Regional Plan Association
Safe Routes to School National Partnership
Sierra Club
Smart Growth America
Transportation for America
Transportation Equity Network (TEN)
Trust for America's Health
United Spinal Association
Upstream Public Health
The Urban Land Institute
U.S. High Speed Rail Association
U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG)
YouthBuild USA
### Regional Organizations

- Midwest High Speed Rail Association
- Southern Environmental Law Center

### State/Local Organizations

#### Alabama
- Conservation Alabama

#### Arizona
- Arizona PIRG

#### California
- California Bicycle Coalition
- California League of Conservation Voters
- California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
- California PIRG
- California Public Health Association-North
- California WALKS
- Catholic Charities, Diocese of Stockton
- Center For Independence Of Individuals with Disabilities
- Greenbelt Alliance
- Local Government Commission
- Marin County Bicycle Coalition
- Move San Diego
- Redwood Coast Rural Action
- Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates
- Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
- SPUR
- Ubuntu Green
- WALKSacrament
- Walk Oakland Bike Oakland

#### Colorado
- Colorado PIRG

#### Connecticut
- Connecticut PIRG

#### Florida
- BikeWalkLee
- Florida PIRG
- Smart Growth Partnership

#### Georgia
- Georgia PIRG

#### Illinois
- The Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (a program of Children's Memorial Hospital)
- Illinois PIRG

#### Indiana
- Health by Design
- Indiana Citizens’ Alliance for Transit

#### Iowa
- Iowa PIRG

#### Massachusetts
- Massachusetts PIRG
- Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance
Maryland
1000 Friends of Maryland
Maryland PIRG
TND Planning Group

Michigan
Michigan PIRG (PIRGIM)

Minnesota
Fresh Energy
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Transit for Livable Communities

Missouri
BikeWalkKC (Missouri & Kansas)
Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Missouri PIRG

Montana
Montana Council On Developmental Disabilities
Montana Public Health Association
RiverStone Health

New Hampshire
New Hampshire PIRG

New Jersey
New Jersey PIRG

New Mexico
New Mexico Chapter: American Planning Association
New Mexico PIRG
Rio Grande Chapter: Sierra Club

New York
Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley Inc.
New York League of Conservation Voters
Transportation Alternatives
Tri-State Transportation Campaign

North Carolina
North Carolina PIRG

Ohio
Ohio PIRG

Oregon
The Honorable Sam Adams, Mayor City of Portland
ASK for Bikes
Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates
Coalition for a Livable Future
Commute Options
Congress for the New Urbanism-Cascadia (Oregon & Washington)
Geonomics Consulting
Lane Transit District
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon PIRG (OSPIRG)
Ride Connection
Roseburg Bicycle/Pedestrian Coalition
SEDCOR

Pennsylvania
Clean Air Council
Pennsylvania PIRG

Rhode Island
Rhode Island PIRG
Virginia
RAIL Solution

Washington
Washington PIRG

Wisconsin
Madison Area Bus Advocates
Wisconsin PIRG

West Virginia
Good News Mountaineer Garage