

August 9, 2023

**RE: 2024 TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES FUNDING**

Dear [Representative/Senator],

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board, comprised of representatives from the City of Durham, the Towns of Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and Hillsborough, Chatham, Durham and Orange Counties, GoTriangle, and the North Carolina State Board of Transportation urges you to fund the 2024 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations bill at the full levels authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021, including programs supporting public transportation.

Public transportation, including bus systems and passenger rail, are critical components for urban and rural places across the Old North State. Our constituents will have reduced access to medical care, crucial public services, and jobs without the investments promised in the IIJA. These investments support housing opportunities that attract our new neighbors joining us from across the country and world to living in NC cities, towns, and countryside.

Growth in our region is unprecedented, and a viable transportation system needs a wide range of investments in roads, buses, trains, sidewalks, and trails that safely and efficiently move people and goods. For every \$1 invested in public transportation, \$5 is generated in economic returns. Today, communities are seeking more than \$49 billion of New and Small Starts funds for 69 projects across the nation. Funding shortfalls could slow or stop these popular projects in their tracks and decrease intercity passenger rail service. Bus Rapid Transit projects currently underway in Wake and Orange Counties rely on this support and will falter without full THUD funding. Please, provide at least \$21.6 billion for public transit and \$20.2 billion for passenger rail, as authorized by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

We appreciate your commitment to North Carolinians and urge you to fully fund public transit and passenger rail investments in the FY 2024 THUD Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jenn Weaver  
DCHC MPO Policy Board Chair