



## **Talking Points for FY19 Appropriations Plus-Ups Being Advocated for by the Bus Coalition and Ask Delegation to Join the Congressional Bus Caucus**

### ***Bus Funding Requests - Background***

- First off, thank you for advocating and securing an additional \$400 million in Bus and Bus Facility funding in FY18. This is a significant investment in bus transit, but there is much more to do.
- In the FY19 Appropriations process, the House THUD bill provides an additional \$550 million above FAST Act funding levels for the Bus and Bus Facility Program. The Senate FY19 THUD bill provides an additional \$400 million, similar to the FY18 increase.
- It's exciting to see both the House and Senate Appropriations Committee recognize the need for additional investment in bus transit.
- Ultimately, we hope that Congress will support the House funding level, which not only provides additional funding for buses, but also pluses up the competitive grant program by an additional \$300 million. This will go a long way to address bus transit lumpy bus and facility needs.
- As way of background, here is the breakdown of the House and Senate Plus-Up Funds for FY19:

	<u>FY19 House THUD</u>	<u>FY19 Senate THUD</u>
<b>5339 Competitive Grant</b>	<b>\$300,000,000</b>	<b>\$161,446,000</b>
5339 Formula		\$209,104,000
Low/No Grants	\$50,000,000	\$29,450,000
5307 Urbanized Formula	\$150,000,000	
5311 Rural Formula	<u>\$50,000,000</u>	
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$550,000,000</i>	<u><i>\$400,000,000</i></u>

### **The Need for Additional Investment**

- FTA's recent competitive grant bus program was significantly oversubscribed 10 to 1 with more than \$2.5 billion in requests for \$227 million available to award.
- Additional funding would provide significant resources to address this backlog. The recent solicitation demonstrates plenty of demand to justify this increased level of investment.
- Buses are the backbone of transit service across the country. Over 51% of all transit trips occur on buses.
- Bus service is critical for low-income families to get to work, school and doctors' appointments. 69% of bus riders have household income less than \$50,000.



- Because of cuts to the Bus and Bus Facility program, between 2009 and 2016, the number of transit buses operating past their useful life increased nearly 40%.
- During that same time period, the number of buses operating more than 15 years has increased a staggering 92%.

**Bipartisan Congressional Bus Caucus**

- We are excited to see the formation of a new Congressional Caucus aimed at emphasizing the importance of bus transit service and adequate federal funding.
- The Caucus, which is Co-Chaired by Reps. David Young (R-IA) and Rick Larsen (D-WA), was recently formed in November 2017.
- Both Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio are members of the Caucus.
- To show your support for the critical service bus transit systems provide to your constituents, we would greatly appreciate you become a member of the Caucus.