



Guiding Principles for the Transportation Authorization

Transportation is a crucial link to ensuring opportunity for all—connecting us to jobs, schools, housing, healthcare, and grocery stores.

But millions of poor people and people of color live in communities where quality transportation options are unaffordable, unreliable, or nonexistent.

Federal transportation policy choices—what we build, where we put it, who builds it, how we operate it, what energy powers it—have an enormous impact on our economy, our climate, and our health. We must invest in a manner that builds a nation where all people can participate and prosper.

The Equity Caucus at Transportation for America—formed by the nation's leading civil rights, community development, racial justice, economic justice, faith-based, health, housing, labor, environmental justice, tribal, public interest, women's, and transportation organizations—drives transportation policies that advance economic and social equity in America.



Together, we call on Congress to ensure the next surface transportation authorization is driven by the following principles and priorities:

1. Create affordable transportation options for all people.

- Significantly increase funding and maximize existing funding that supports enhanced public transportation service, bicycle facilities, and sidewalks—particularly in disadvantaged communities.
- Give communities flexibility to use federal funds to help operate local public transportation systems.
- Expand and improve service for people who depend on public transportation—older adults, individuals with disabilities, people in rural areas, and the poor.
- Increase investment in bicycle-sharing, car-sharing, and auto-loan programs for low-income families in rural communities, small towns, and underserved urban neighborhoods.

2. Ensure fair access to quality jobs, workforce development, and contracting opportunities in the transportation industry.

- Establish and uphold job quality protections and standards, including prevailing wages and benefits, across the transportation sector.
- Provide resources for affordable job training and career pathways for all people—including women, people of color, and low-income individuals—to access employment opportunities associated with manufacturing, building, maintaining, repairing, and operating our nation's transportation systems.
- Strengthen, enforce, and tie federal funding to compliance with contracting goals for disadvantaged business enterprises, in order to ensure supplier and industry diversity.



3. Promote healthy, safe, and inclusive communities.

- Establish a pilot program using health impact assessments to evaluate the individual and community health outcomes of transportation projects in urban, suburban, rural, and tribal communities.
- Require complete streets and provide resources to ensure all communities have roads, sidewalks, and active transportation networks that are safe and welcoming to everyone who uses them.
- Require and fund a greener and cleaner freight system in ports, on rail, and via truck, to reduce emissions, improve air quality, and support local solutions to freight transportation challenges.
- Provide incentives to reduce the combined cost of housing and transportation, particularly for our nation's poorest families, and guarantee access to racially and economically integrated communities by expanding and preserving affordable housing near public transportation, quality schools, and job centers.
- Increase resources at the U.S. Department of Transportation to support transportation projects that better integrate housing, community economic development, and environmental sustainability goals.

4. Invest equitably and focus on results.

- Establish criteria and align federal funding to national transportation outcomes such as improved mobility for people and goods, access, transit ridership, health and safety, as well as reduced household costs, carbon emissions, and vehicle miles traveled.
- Repair and improve aging transportation infrastructure to ensure that it is safe and well-maintained.
- Actively enforce civil rights provisions to ensure fair and equitable access to the benefits of our transportation system, and prevent disproportionate negative impacts on disadvantaged communities.
- Utilize new revenue to expand or improve mobility and access for underserved communities and ensure that any mechanisms used to finance our nation's transportation system do not disproportionately burden low-income people.
- Establish rural transportation planning organizations where they do not exist, and reform metropolitan planning organizations and state departments of transportation to improve accountability and public engagement in decision making, especially for tribes and historically disadvantaged communities.



Endorsing Organizations (as of April 1, 2012)

Action for Regional Equity	Coalition on Human Needs	Los Angeles Bike Coalition	National Housing Trust	Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO
Alliance for Biking and Walking	The Coalition on Regional Equity	Low Income Investment Fund	National Low Income Housing Coalition	Transportation Equity Network
Alliance for Metropolitan Stability	Conference of Minority Transportation Officials	Madison Area Bus Advocates	National Urban League	Transportation for America
Alternatives for Community and Environment	Developing Communities Project	Massachusetts Public Health Association	National Wildlife Federation	Trust for America's Health
Amalgamated Transit Union	Enterprise Community Partners	Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy	National Women's Law Center	Ubuntu Green
America Bikes	Equity Atlanta	NAACP	Opportunity Agenda	United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
America Walks	Gamaliel Foundation	NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.	Partnership for Working Families	Upstream Public Health
American Public Health Association	Good Jobs First	National Association of County and City Health Officials	PolicyLink	Urban Habitat
Apollo Alliance	Good News Mountaineer Garage	National Center for Bicycling and Walking	Poverty and Race Research Action Council	Wider Opportunities for Women
Asian Pacific American Legal Center	Greenlining Institute	National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development	Public Advocates	William C. Velasquez Institute
Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals	Half in Ten	The National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy	YouthBuild USA
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living	International Brotherhood of Teamsters	National Complete Streets Coalition	Reconnecting America	
CLASP	Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity	National Congress of American Indians	Redwood Coast Rural Action	
Center for Community Change	Labor/Community Strategy Center and Bus Riders Union	National Fair Housing Alliance	Sacramento Housing Alliance	
Center for Rural Strategies	Legal Momentum	National Housing Conference	Safe Routes to School National Partnership	
Center for Social Inclusion	Little Village Environmental Justice Organization		Sierra Club	
Center for Working Families	Local Initiatives Support Corporation		Service Employees International Union	
Change to Win			Smart Growth America	
The Coalition for the Advancement of Regional Transportation			TransForm	
			Transit Riders for Public Transportation	

For More Information

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About Transportation for America

Transportation for America is the largest, most diverse coalition working for a bold new vision for transportation that guarantees our freedom to move however we choose and leads to a stronger economy, greater energy security, cleaner environment, and a healthier America for all of us.

Visit our website: www.t4america.org/equitycaucus