



SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT

P.O. Box 201010 • Stockton, CA 95201 • (209) 943-1111 • (209) 948-8516 Fax • sjRTD.com

June 8, 2021

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the INVEST in America Act

Dear Chairman DeFazio:

This letter is to provide the San Joaquin Regional Transit District's (RTD's) strong support for the historic levels of bus transit investments included in the "Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act" (INVEST in America Act). By helping transit agencies meet a critical need of upgrading and replacing aging buses, this robust funding will ensure we can maintain a level of service that many in our communities depend on to access jobs, health care, education, and other critical destinations.

Buses are the backbone of transit service across America, providing more than one-half of all trips on public transportation. However, largely due to a 57% reduction of federal funding for buses under MAP-21, the number of buses operating past useful life has increased 41% while buses operating past 15 years increased a staggering 82%. In addition, bus fleet size has shrunk by 24% (16,787 buses) in just six years. It's clear the diversion in resources away from bus programs has taken their toll on transit service.

The INVEST in America Act will help address this challenge by making critical investments for surface transportation infrastructure, including \$109 billion for public transportation overall and over \$11 billion for bus and bus facility infrastructure.


CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Gloria G. Salazar
BOARD OF DIRECTORS: **CHAIR** Michael P. Restuccia • **VICE CHAIR** Gary S. Giovanetti
Joni Bauer • Balwinder T. Singh • Les J. Fong



Importantly, the bill also restores the historical share of bus capital funding to 20 percent. The investments into bus infrastructure included in the bill will go a long way toward upgrading and replacing our aging and shrinking bus fleets, boosting economic growth and helping enhance bus service in all communities across the country.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Gloria G. Salazar
Chief Executive Officer