

THE INVEST IN AMERICA ACT

FOR THE PEOPLE

Chair DeFazio Officially Introduces the *INVEST in America Act* as Support Builds for the Legislation

Washington, DC – Chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Peter DeFazio (D-OR) last week officially introduced the *Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America (INVEST in America) Act* during a pro forma session in the House. The INVEST in America Act, a 5-year, nearly \$500 billion investment in our Nation's infrastructure, is a key component of the [Moving Forward Framework](#) that House Democrats released earlier this year. After Committee leaders unveiled the bill text Wednesday, June 3rd, support started pouring in from a diverse array of transportation, environmental, worker, and safety advocates.

What advocates from around the country are saying about the INVEST in America Act:

“Past reauthorizations have been an exercise in spending more money and magically wishing for better outcomes with outdated policy, which was always foolish,” **said Beth Osborne, director of Transportation for America.** “With this new proposal from Chairman DeFazio, the INVEST in America Act, the House is charting a welcome course toward updating our country's 1950's approach to transportation.”

“**The American Public Transportation Association (APTA)**, on behalf of the entire public transportation industry, would like to thank House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chair Peter A. DeFazio (D-OR), Chair of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), and Chair of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Dan Lipinski (D-IL) for their extraordinary leadership in crafting the INVEST in America Act. We strongly support the bill and its critical investments for surface transportation infrastructure, including \$105 billion for public transportation and \$60 billion for commuter rail, Amtrak, and other high-performance rail.”

“For too long, the needs of professional drivers and others who work in the transportation sector have been ignored by lawmakers,” **Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa said.** “This legislation will set the nation on the right path by making badly needed infrastructure improvements while also ensuring that workers are protected on the job.”

“The **National League of Cities** thanks Rep. Peter DeFazio, Chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for proposing legislation that eases the impacts of COVID-19 on critical transportation projects in our cities, towns, and villages. The INVEST Act would provide increased federal support for next year's transportation projects, grow strategic transit and rail investments over the next five years and improve intergovernmental collaboration.”

“Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) applauds House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Peter DeFazio for today’s introduction of the INVEST in America Act. Chairman DeFazio is a traffic safety champion and has made saving lives a priority in this legislation.”

Stephanie Gidigbi, director of policy and partnerships for NRDC’s (Natural Resources Defense Council) Healthy People & Thriving Communities Program: “For too many years, funding from Washington has built roads and highways that divided low-income communities and communities of color without offering the transportation alternatives all of us can use. The INVEST Act offers a different path, one that leads to a more just, equitable, and climate-resilient future. Crucially, this bill ensures all communities have access to pedestrian, biking and transit options. It also will help us slash carbon pollution by investing in electric-vehicle charging stations, while ensuring that roads, bridges and transit lines are able to withstand the stronger storms and floods we must prepare for because of climate change.”

“The National Safety Council applauds House lawmakers for the INVEST in America Act, the reauthorization of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. For too long, the United States has consistently avoided the hard choices needed to save lives on the roadways. This proposal is an opportunity for us to start making the right choices so we can save lives, because we know that all traffic deaths are preventable.”

“The Coalition for America’s Gateways & Trade Corridors (CAGTC) applauds the INVEST in America Act’s continuation of dedicated investment in our nation’s freight assets, first through the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Program (INFRA) in Fiscal Year 2021, then through the Projects of National and Regional Significance Program (PNRS) through the remaining years of the proposal. Competitive grant programs are essential to funding large-scale goods movement infrastructure projects, which are difficult to fund through traditional distribution methods such as formula programs.”

“Unfortunately, we do not yet have a cure for COVID-19. But, we do have proven and available safety solutions to address the preventable fatalities and injuries occurring on our Nation’s roadways year after year,” said **Cathy Chase, President of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (Advocates)**. “We commend Chairman DeFazio, Highways and Transit Subcommittee Chairman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) and Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee Chairman Dan Lipinski (D-IL) for sponsoring the INVEST in America Act and advancing important safety countermeasures.” Advocates looks forward to working with the Committee as our review of this legislation continues.

ITS America President and CEO Shailen Bhatt: “As the association that promotes technology to reduce fatalities, congestion and emissions, ITS America is gratified to see so many positive aspects in the bill that will lead to more research in and deployment of technology, including increasing access to mobility services by making Mobility on Demand an eligible activity under transit programs.”

“We commend Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) for leading the effort to address our nation’s transportation needs, including the costly backlog of transportation projects in our parks,” said **Emily Douce of the National Parks Conservation Association**.

“Together we want to ensure park visitors can continue to experience and enjoy these places now, and for years to come.”

“The INVEST Act reflects more than a year of advocacy by the League, our partners, and our members to push for a future where our transportation system works better for all people, especially people biking and walking,” said **Bill Nesper, executive director of the League of American Bicyclists**.

“We know that the INVEST Act can make a difference in transportation equity across the country and the Safe Routes Partnership looks forward to supporting its passage and implementation for Safe Routes to Schools, to parks, to healthy food, and so many other essential parts of our lives,” said **Cassandra Isidro, executive director of Safe Routes Partnership**.

“On behalf of **The Bus Coalition (TBC)** and its members, I applaud the historic level of bus transit funding included in Chairman DeFazio’s reauthorization proposal. Buses are the backbone of transit service across America providing more than one-half of all trips on public transportation. Our customers rely on buses daily to access jobs, health care, education, and other critical destinations. The level of investment included in the bill will go a long way toward upgrading and replacing our aging and shrinking bus fleets, boost economic growth and help enhance bus service in all communities across the country,” said **The Bus Coalition President Bill Carpenter**.

“**CTAA [Community Transportation Association of America]** members provide critical trips and support their vulnerable populations by acting as a lifeline. The record level of investment proposed in this bill would not only allow our rural, tribal, specialized and small-urban transit providers to continue meeting demand, but explore new and innovative ways to better serve their communities, said **Scott Bogren, Executive Director of CTAA**. “We applaud this bill’s important emphasis on improved bus operations and capital investment, the incorporation of meaningful improvements to procurement and vehicle disposition, and the focus on transit services for low-income and persistent poverty communities.”

“Through the INVEST in America Act, the House T&I Committee tackles many of the most critical issues facing America’s transportation system—including safety, climate and maintenance,” said **Kevin Mills, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy’s vice president of policy**. “The bill recognizes and advances policies to address the tragic and growing number of pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities that occur on our roads and it creates incentives to cut carbon emissions. It makes active transportation eligible for many programs and increases dedicated investment in trails, walking and biking programs to more than \$1.5 billion a year—allocating resources to the nation’s fundamental active transportation funding programs like Transportation Alternatives and the Recreational Trails Program, while ensuring that Transportation Alternatives funding remains dedicated to its intended purpose in all states. Especially exciting is a new investment to connect walking and biking facilities within our communities and between regions.”

“We applaud Chairman Peter DeFazio for listening to the needs of workers represented by **SMART-TD**, and responding accordingly. By providing robust funding for infrastructure, passenger rail, and transit, as well as the inclusion of smart transportation policy, the Invest in America Act represents a bold step forward for our members,” said Jeremy Ferguson, president of SMART-TD.

“Title V of the INVEST in America Act is the most significant piece of railroad legislation since the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008,” **BLET (Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen)** National President Dennis R. Pierce said.

A running list of supporters is below.

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Support for the INVEST in America Act

[Access Services](#)
[Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety](#)
[Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District](#)
[Amalgamated Transit Union \(ATU\)](#)
[American Council of Engineering Companies \(ACEC\)](#)
[American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois \(ACEC-IL\)](#)
[American Public Transportation Association \(APTA\)](#)
[Amtrak-Police Fraternal Order of Police](#)
[Association of Commuter Transportation](#)
[Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations](#)
[Barona Tribe](#)
[Bike Durham](#)
[Bike Walk RVA](#)
[Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen \(BLET\)](#)
[The Bus Coalition](#)
[Business for a Better Portland](#)
[California Transit Association](#)
[CALSTART](#)
[Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority](#)
[Cascadia Rail](#)
[Center for American Progress](#)
[Center for Community Transportation](#)
[Center for Transportation and the Environment \(CTE\)](#)
[CITILINK](#)
[Citizens for Modern Transit](#)
[City of Arcata](#)
[City of Madison, Wisconsin](#)
[City of Pittsburgh](#)
[City of Tacoma](#)
[Clackamas County](#)
[Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors \(CAGTC\)](#)
[Coalition for a New Dallas](#)
[Coalition for Smarter Transportation](#)
[Coalition for the Northeast Corridor](#)
[Conference of Minority Transportation Officials \(COMTO\)](#)

Contra Costa Transportation Authority
Cook County Department of Transportation
Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO)
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Cubic
Farm&City
Gateway Program
GILLIG
GoCarma
Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA)
Greater Ohio Policy Center
Green for All
Indianapolis Public Transit Corporation
The Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America)
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE)
Intertribal Transportation Association
Island Transit
Jacksonville Transportation Authority
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Lane Transit District (Eugene, OR)
LA Streetcar, Inc.
League of American Bicyclists
LivableStreets Alliance
Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA)
Local Officials in Transportation (LOT) Coalition
Louisville Metro Government
Madison Area Bus Advocates
Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance (MSGA)
Mass Transportation Authority (Flint, MI)
Metra Commuter Railroad
METRO Regional Transit Authority
The Metropolitan Civic Leadership Alliance
Metropolitan Planning Council
Missouri Public Transit Association
Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
National Audubon Society
National League of Cities
National PARKS Conservation Association (NPCA)
The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
The Nature Conservancy
Nelson Nygaard
The North American Bikeshare Association (NABSA)
North America's Building Trades Unions
North County Transit District
Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation
Pace Suburban Bus
People for Bikes
Petrichor Science Group
The Pew Charitable Trusts

Pierce Transit
Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG)
Public Ferry Coalition
Puerto Rico Private Sector Coalition
Rail Passengers Association
Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority
Romeo RIM (Reaction Injection Molding)
Sacramento Regional Transit District
Safe Routes to Schools
Salem Area Mass Transit District
San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART)
Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (SCMTD)
Secretary Valentine
Securing America's Future Energy (SAFE)
Sheet Metal Air Rail Transportation (SMART) Transportation Division
South West Transit Association (SWTA)
Southern Environmental Law Center
Sound Transit
Spokane Tribe of Indians
Sustain Charlotte
Tarrant Transit Alliance
Transit Alliance Miami
Transportation Choices Coalition
Transportation Communications International Union
Transportation for America (T4A)
Transportation Riders United
Transportation Trades Department (TTD)
Transportation Workers Union of America (TWU)
TriMet
Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners
United Safety and Survivability Corporation
Urban Engineers Inc.
Urbanism Next (University of Oregon)
Utah Transit Authority
Virginia Railway Express (VRE)
Virginia Transit Association (VTA)
Walk Austin
Walk Bike Nashville
Washington State Transit Association (WSTA)
Will County Governmental League