



April 19, 2010

## MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

### S. 3189, Allowing Local Control of Federal Transit Funds

Attention: Transportation Staff

Dear Senator:

The Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), AFL/CIO, the largest labor organization representing public transportation workers in the U.S., strongly urges you to become a cosponsor of S. 3189, introduced by Senator Sherrod Brown.

This bill would provide for increased flexibility in the use of federal transit funds by allowing transit systems of all sizes to use a percentage of their funds to provide service. Under current law, the majority of U.S. transit systems may not use their federal funds for operating assistance. As a result, public transportation systems are being forced to implement painful service cuts, fare increases, and layoffs because of shortages in state and local revenues, creating a mobility crisis.

This legislation would allow transit systems to maintain critical service and provide access to jobs for millions of people. In addition, the bill would encourage state and local governments to invest in transit through a unique incentive program.

In summary, this bill would provide transit systems with local control of their federal transit funds, allowing them to avoid further service cuts and hold down fares during tough economic times so that working people may be offered quality, affordable public transportation. The bill strikes the necessary balance given the challenges facing the Highway Trust Fund, as it does not create any new revenue stream for transit operations. Rather, it simply allows transit systems to use their existing funds as they deem necessary in an effort to keep service on the street.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. If you have any questions or if you would like to cosponsor S. 3189, please contact Jonathan McCracken in Senator Sherrod Brown's office at (202) 224-2315 or [jonathan\\_mccracken@brown.senate.gov](mailto:jonathan_mccracken@brown.senate.gov)

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