

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 1, 2014

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member Rahall:

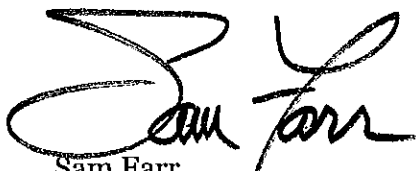
As the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee considers reauthorization of federal surface transportation programs, we suggest enhancements to the very successful FTA Small Transit Intensive Cities (STIC) program that would not require any new funding.

As you know, the STIC program was authorized in SAFETEA-LU after rigorous consideration that dates back to the 1998 TEA-21 law. The program provides funds, based on measurable transit system characteristics, to public transit agencies in smaller urbanized areas that provide higher levels of service as compared to the average service levels of their larger public transit counterparts.

An FTA study in 2000 identified 77 smaller urbanized areas that would meet the service-based eligibility criteria of a formula program based on high ridership. However, since its inception in 2006, over 160 communities in 45 states and Puerto Rico have received STIC funding at least once. This additional funding has allowed these smaller transit systems to fund a variety of projects that have increased the efficiency and capacity of public transportation nationwide.

By all FTA measures of transit intensity, the STIC program has been very successful. However, it has been a victim of its own success, as more communities qualify for the program, annual allocations for eligible transit agencies decrease. Therefore, we respectfully request the Committee enhance the program by increasing the percentage of the Section 5307 urbanized area formula program that funds the STIC from 1.5 percent to 3 percent. This modest change, that does not require new funding, would significantly improve public transit service in 165 communities across the country.

We look forward to working with you to strengthen the STIC program.



Sam Farr
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



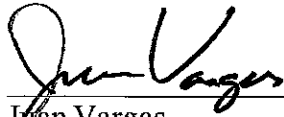
Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress



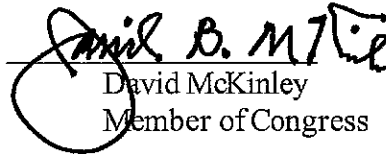
Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



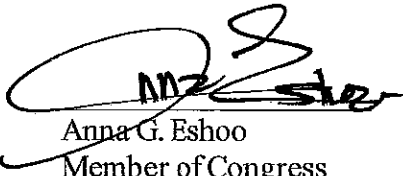
David McKinley
Member of Congress



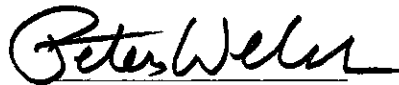
Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



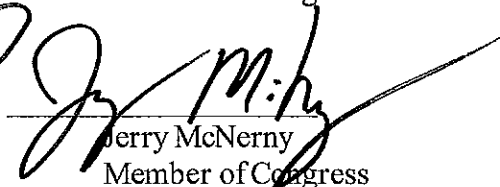
Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress



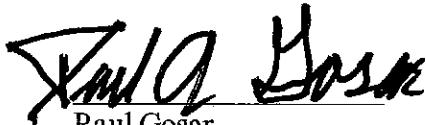
David Loeb sack
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



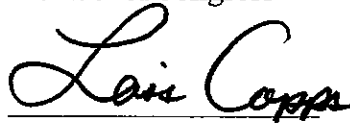
Jerry McNerny
Member of Congress



Paul Gosar
Member of Congress



Pedro Pierluisi
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Tom Marino
Member of Congress