

# *The Alliance for*

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# TRANSIT OPERATING ASSISTANCE

## ***Jobs for Main Street Act: First Opportunity for New Coalition to Increase Transit Operating Assistance***

In December, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 2847, the *Jobs for Main Street Act*. This bill would provide \$8.4 billion for public and community transportation programs. This is the same amount that was provided to transit under the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (ARRA) nearly a year ago, although the breakout of the funding within FTA programs is slightly different: \$6.15 billion would be provided for transit capital assistance formula programs, including \$4.84 billion allocated for urban formula grants, and \$605 million each for rural formula grants and the high density/growing states formula grants.

Most importantly for the ATOA Coalition, **the bill would allow transit systems to use up to 10% of their formula funds received under H.R. 2847 to be used for operating assistance.** While the ARRA also allowed 10% of funding to be used for operating, the authority under that bill was not in the original version passed by Congress; it came as a result of an amendment passed about four months later. The *Jobs for Main Street Bill* – with the operating assistance made available right from the start – could provide immediate relief to transit systems across the country.

The Senate is expected to consider this legislation, which also includes many other potential job creating (and job saving) programs in the next few weeks. **The ATOA urges the Senate to increase the percentage made available under the bill for transit operating assistance to 20%.** Please contact your Senators today and urge them to support an increase in the operating percentage passed by the House.