



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 1, 2023

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member Quigley:

We write to urge you to provide adequate funding for transit and rail programs in the FY 2024 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill. We are deeply concerned by proposed reductions in funding for these programs which are vitally important both nationally and in our home state of North Carolina.

Enactment of the House legislation in its current form would lead to an 11% reduction from FY 2023 enacted levels for transit and a substantial 41% reduction for rail. Furthermore, these cuts represent a 13% reduction in transit funding and a staggering 92% decrease in rail funding from the envisioned levels under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) for FY 2024, which passed the House with strong bipartisan support. These cuts would not only hinder ongoing projects but also impede our ability to address pressing infrastructure needs and opportunities for economic growth.

Specifically, in North Carolina, these proposed reductions would result in a dramatic decrease in funding, with an overall transit reduction of approximately \$20,219,762 compared to FY 2023 funding levels, according to estimates from the North Carolina Department of Transportation. For rural and urban areas alike, this would significantly hamper the provision of essential transit services and negatively impact the mobility and quality of life of our constituents.

Transit investments are pivotal for our growing communities, enabling access to employment, education, healthcare, and social services, as well as reducing traffic congestion. In addition, the absence of adequate funding for rail, including essential safety and expansion projects, would obstruct crucial developments vital for economic growth, trade, and transportation efficiency. Communities across North Carolina seeking improved rail services would face significant challenges without sufficient federal support.

Transportation investments reflect a long-term commitment to enhancing the lives and livelihoods of our constituents, fostering economic development, and bolstering our state and national competitiveness. Again, we urge you to provide robust funding for transit and rail programs in the FY 2024 THUD Appropriations bill to ensure that we prioritize our nation's transportation infrastructure and provide a brighter economic future for all Americans. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Very truly yours,



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Wiley Nickel
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Kathy Manning
Member of Congress



Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress