



# Guiding Principles for the Transportation Authorization

**Transportation is a crucial link** to ensuring opportunity for all—connecting us to jobs, schools, housing, healthcare, and grocery stores.

But millions of poor people and people of color live in communities where quality transportation options are unaffordable, unreliable, or nonexistent.

Federal transportation policy choices—what we build, where we put it, who builds it, how we operate it, what energy powers it—have an enormous impact on our economy, our climate, and our health. We must invest in a manner that builds a nation where all people can participate and prosper.

The Equity Caucus at Transportation for America—formed by the nation’s leading civil rights, community development, racial justice, economic justice, faith-based, health, housing, labor, environmental justice, tribal, and transportation organizations—drives transportation policies that advance economic and social equity in America.



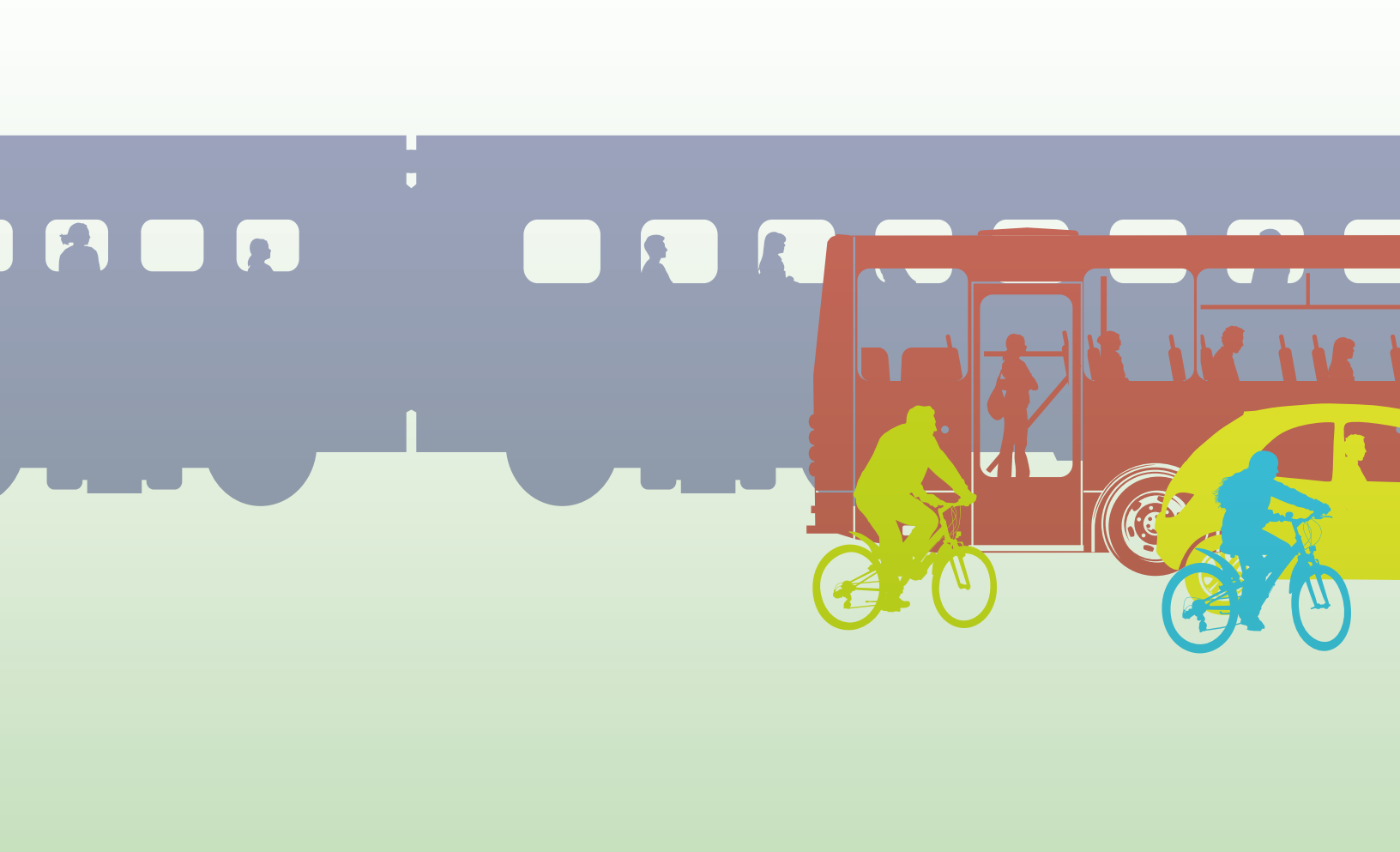
# Together, we call on Congress to ensure the next surface transportation authorization is driven by the following principles and priorities:

## 1. Create affordable transportation options for all people.

- Significantly increase funding and maximize existing funding that supports enhanced public transportation service, bicycle facilities, and sidewalks—particularly in disadvantaged communities.
- Give communities flexibility to use federal funds to help operate local public transportation systems.
- Expand and improve service for people who depend on public transportation—older adults, individuals with disabilities, people in rural areas, and the poor.
- Increase investment in bicycle-sharing, car-sharing, and auto-loan programs for low-income families in rural communities, small towns, and underserved urban neighborhoods.

## 2. Ensure fair access to quality jobs, workforce development, and contracting opportunities in the transportation industry.

- Establish and uphold job quality protections and standards, including prevailing wages and benefits, across the transportation sector.
- Provide resources for affordable job training and career pathways for all people—including women, people of color, and low-income individuals—to access employment opportunities associated with manufacturing, building, maintaining, repairing, and operating our nation's transportation systems.
- Strengthen, enforce, and tie federal funding to compliance with contracting goals for disadvantaged business enterprises, in order to ensure supplier and industry diversity.



### 3. Promote healthy, safe, and inclusive communities.

- Establish a pilot program using health impact assessments to evaluate the individual and community health outcomes of transportation projects in urban, suburban, rural, and tribal communities.
- Require complete streets and provide resources to ensure all communities have roads, sidewalks, and active transportation networks that are safe and welcoming to everyone who uses them.
- Require and fund a greener and cleaner freight system in ports, on rail, and via truck, to reduce emissions, improve air quality, and support local solutions to freight transportation challenges.
- Provide incentives to reduce the combined cost of housing and transportation, particularly for our nation's poorest families, and guarantee access to racially and economically integrated communities by expanding and preserving affordable housing near public transportation, quality schools, and job centers.
- Increase resources at the U.S. Department of Transportation to support transportation projects that better integrate housing, community economic development, and environmental sustainability goals.

### 4. Invest equitably and focus on results.

- Establish criteria and align federal funding to national transportation outcomes such as improved mobility for people and goods, access, transit ridership, health and safety, as well as reduced household costs, carbon emissions, and vehicle miles traveled.
- Repair and improve aging transportation infrastructure to ensure that it is safe and well-maintained.
- Actively enforce civil rights provisions to ensure fair and equitable access to the benefits of our transportation system, and prevent disproportionate negative impacts on disadvantaged communities.
- Utilize new revenue to expand or improve mobility and access for underserved communities and ensure that any mechanisms used to finance our nation's transportation system do not disproportionately burden low-income people.
- Establish rural transportation planning organizations where they do not exist, and reform metropolitan planning organizations and state departments of transportation to improve accountability and public engagement in decision making, especially for tribes and historically disadvantaged communities.



# Endorsing Organizations (as of September 24, 2010)

Action for Regional Equity  
Alliance for Biking and Walking  
Alternatives for Community and Environment  
Amalgamated Transit Union  
America Bikes  
American Public Health Association  
Apollo Alliance  
Asian Pacific American Legal Center  
Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals  
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living  
CLASP  
Center for Community Change  
Center for Rural Strategies  
Center for Social Inclusion  
Center for Working Families  
Change to Win

Coalition on Human Needs  
Conference of Minority Transportation Officials  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Gamaliel Foundation  
Good Jobs First  
Good News Mountaineer Garage  
Greenlining Institute  
Half in Ten  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters  
Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity  
Labor/Community Strategy Center and Bus Riders Union  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation  
NAACP  
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.  
National Association of County and City Health Officials

National Center for Bicycling and Walking  
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development  
National Complete Streets Coalition  
National Congress of American Indians  
National Housing Conference  
National Housing Trust  
National Low Income Housing Coalition  
National Urban League  
Opportunity Agenda  
Partnership for Working Families  
PolicyLink  
Poverty and Race Research Action Council  
Public Advocates  
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  
Reconnecting America  
Redwood Coast Rural Action

Safe Routes to School National Partnership  
Service Employees International Union  
Smart Growth America  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
TransForm  
Transit Riders for Public Transportation  
Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO  
Transportation Equity Network  
Transportation for America  
Trust for America's Health  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
Urban Habitat  
Wider Opportunities for Women  
William C. Velasquez Institute  
YouthBuild USA



## For More Information

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## About Transportation for America

Transportation for America is the largest, most diverse coalition working for a bold new vision for transportation that guarantees our freedom to move however we choose and leads to a stronger economy, greater energy security, cleaner environment, and a healthier America for all of us.

Visit our website: [www.t4america.org](http://www.t4america.org).