

The Alliance for

TRANSIT OPERATING ASSISTANCE

Whereas, the availability of affordable, convenient public transportation has a direct connection to many Americans' ability to find and keep a job, access vital health care and live independently;

Whereas, transit ridership is at a 50-year high, yet the majority of public transportation systems in the U.S. have recently been forced to implement painful service cuts and steep fare increases because of shortages in state and local revenues and the inability to use federal transit funds for operating assistance;

Whereas, more than 2,100 public transportation workers in at least 20 U.S. cities were laid off in 2009, and without federal assistance, dozens of transit systems in U.S. cities of various sizes will soon lay off thousands of additional workers and slash millions of service hours;

Whereas, fare increases and service cuts have a devastating impact on working families; and affordable, convenient public transportation will play a vital role in the economic recovery of thousands of American communities of all sizes;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- **The Alliance for Transit Operating Assistance** supports H.R. 2746 which would provide transit systems with local control of federal transit investment and allow them to preserve critical service and maintain affordable fares during tough economic times so that working people may be offered quality, affordable public transportation.
- **The Alliance** believes all community and public transportation systems should be able to decide locally when and how to best deploy federal and local investment for either operating or capital uses.
- **The Alliance** supports legislative action that deals with the current crisis in transit operating investment specifically — even if such action is time-limited — while maintaining its long-term goal of permanent empowerment of local transit system decision-making.
- **The Alliance** supports passage of H.R. 2746 and seeks similar legislation in the U.S. Senate.
- **The Alliance** seeks to include transit operating assistance in any future Economic Stimulus, Climate Change, or Surface Transportation Reauthorization Legislation.
- **The Alliance** favors, as is stipulated in H.R. 2746, the development of federal incentives to increase local and state transit investment.