



APTA Calls on Congress to Keep Public Transit and Jobs Moving Forward

Washington, D.C. (March 1, 2010) - Statement by William Millar, APTA President: “On behalf of the more than 1,400 members of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), I call on Congress to quickly vote for an extension of federal funding for public transportation and highway programs.

Transportation is the economic backbone of the United States. Letting federal funding for transportation programs expire, at a time when jobs are a national priority, is unthinkable. Now, as a result of the inability to extend federal aid legislation, more Americans will be out of work. This is not in the best interest of our country.

From the public transit side, this means that the Federal Transit Administration cannot make payments for transit projects underway and cannot process new applications. Transportation investments should not be delayed while the economy suffers.

What this also points to is the need for Congress to pass new federal surface transportation legislation that will support and create good “green” jobs and build a world class, 21st century, multi-modal transportation system. The lack of action on this legislation last fall has led us to temporary extensions and now, with the lack of action on extending an extension, we are forced to be in the inconceivable situation of a shutdown of federal funding.

Transportation investment is a bipartisan issue and we strongly urge our congressional leaders to pass a year-long extension quickly, while at the same time, making a commitment to finalize new multi-year surface transportation legislation before the end of the year. American jobs are depending on this.”

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The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) is a nonprofit international association of over 1,500 public and private member organizations, engaged in the areas of bus, paratransit, light rail, commuter rail, subways, waterborne passenger services, and high-speed rail. This includes: transit systems; planning, design, construction, and finance firms; product and service providers; academic institutions; transit associations and state departments of transportation. APTA members serve the public interest by providing safe, efficient and economical transit services and products. More than 90 percent of the people using public transportation in the United States and Canada are served by APTA member systems.

Contact:

Virginia Miller

(202) 496-4816

vmiller@apta.com

or

Mantill Williams

(202)496-4869

mwilliams@apta.com