



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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****PRESS RELEASE****

California Transit Association Makes Key Recommendations to Inform the Development of the *American Jobs Plan*

Association Represents Over 85 Public Transit Agencies in California and Major California-Based Bus Manufacturers

Sacramento – This week the California Transit Association submitted a suite of recommendations to key Congressional leaders, charged with advancing the Biden-Harris Administration’s *American Jobs Plan*. The \$2 trillion investment, proposed by President Biden in March, focuses on upgrading the nation’s infrastructure, combatting climate change, and reshaping the economy. The Plan, which is supported by the Association, includes \$621 billion for transportation infrastructure and resilience over the next eight years. Repairing, modernizing, and expanding mass transportation and infrastructure will create jobs, accelerate clean energy solutions, and shore up the nation’s long-term growth and competitiveness.

Among the critical investments proposed in the Plan is \$174 billion to support electric vehicle deployment and battery manufacturing to facilitate, among other things, the transition of 50,000 transit buses nationwide to zero-emission bus (ZEB) technologies. Drawing on California’s policy leadership, which has established California as the national leader in the manufacturing and deployment of ZEB technologies, the Association’s recommendations provide a policy roadmap to Congressional leaders for transforming local transit bus fleets and delivering cleaner mobility options to millions of Americans.

On behalf of California’s public transit agencies and the major California-based manufacturers of ZEB technologies, the Association’s recommendations for the transportation and infrastructure components of the *American Jobs Plan* include:

- **Core Transit and Rail Programs:** Congress should use the core transit and rail funding levels included in H.R. 2 (2020), as the baseline for investment in core transit and rail programs. These programs are vital to replacing aging fleets, modernizing our transit assets, and delivering jobs benefits to workers in construction, transit manufacturing and maintenance. H.R. 2 was passed by the House of Representatives last year and would have funded surface transportation programs for transit, highways and highway safety at unprecedented levels for six years. The bill did not receive a vote in the Senate.

- **Zero-Emission Bus Grant Program:** We support the creation of a strong national program to fund the transition to zero-emission buses across the country and urge Congress to use the *American Jobs Plan* as the baseline for investment in the program. Importantly, the program should help fund the replacement of existing fleets; provide grants for charging and refueling zero-emission infrastructure; and reward transit agencies that have made commitments to transition to fully zero-emission fleets.
- **Resiliency:** We urge Congress to provide significant new funding to prevent, reduce, and withstand the impacts of the natural disasters and climate crisis on our nation's transit and rail infrastructure. Extreme weather events and sea-level rise caused by climate change threaten the nation's beleaguered roads, bridges, rail, and transit systems left in crippling condition due to decades-long decline and underfunding. Ensuring that eligible project types include investments to harden transit and rail infrastructure against these events as well as infrastructure solutions to the electricity grid powering zero-emission vehicles will be critical.
- **Equity:** Provide new funding to pilot and study reduced and fare free transit to address the transportation cost burden to low-income families and inform the development of more equitable fare structures.

[Read the full package of recommendations submitted to Congress.](#)

“The modernization of our nation’s public transit systems is vital to our economy and our environment. With the *American Jobs Plan*, President Biden has advanced a historic and realistic blueprint for how we *Build Back Better* as a nation,” said the Association’s Executive Director, Michael Pimentel.

“As Congress acts on the *American Jobs Plan* to deliver investments that will transform our transportation sector, California’s transit industry is uniquely positioned to offer recommendations on how to do it effectively and equitably. California’s transit agencies’ vast experience operating zero-emission buses, our long history developing state funding programs to support their deployment, and our state’s success in helping to create a new manufacturing base can help support the creation of a strong national program to incentivize the transition to zero-emission buses across the country. Today, California has almost five times more ZEBs deployed than the next closest state in the nation.”

The Association and its members will continue to provide guidance and advise the development of transportation and infrastructure funding proposed in the *American Jobs Plan* as it moves through the legislative process.

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Michael Pimentel is the executive director of the California Transit Association, a 501(c)(6) non-profit trade organization comprised of nearly 250 member organizations, including all of the state’s largest urban transit operators, as well as dozens of transit agencies in suburban and rural areas. Its membership also extends to include commuter rail agencies, transit support groups, national and international transit suppliers, and government agencies. The Association is the leading advocate on behalf of public transit in California, representing transit’s interests before the California State Legislature, the Governor and regulatory agencies on the local, state and federal levels.