



June 03, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio,

Our nation's infrastructure is in dire need of repair and modernization. The U.S. economy depends on a functioning transportation and infrastructure system that provides access to opportunity for every American, supports the efficient movement of workers and goods around the country, facilitates international trade, and is resilient to the threat of climate change. Under your leadership and in partnership with the Biden administration, we have a once in a generation opportunity to build back better for the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century.

The New Democrat Coalition (NDC) is focused on growing the economy, creating good jobs, and ensuring every American has the opportunity to earn a good living, and modernizing our infrastructure is one of the best investments we can make for our future. As the House continues to develop a legislative package in response to the President's American Jobs Plan, New Dems believe our infrastructure package must build funding and financing to last, build resilient, innovative infrastructure for the future, and build with smart and inclusive planning, zoning, and development.

As the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee prepares to mark-up a surface transportation and infrastructure reauthorization bill, and as the House develops a broader infrastructure package, we respectfully request that you work with the New Democrat Coalition and our Members to include NDC priorities. Specifically, [the NDC has endorsed several infrastructure bills](#) which we hope to advance as part of the infrastructure package.

Build Funding and Financing to Last

We must invest in our long-term infrastructure needs and fiscal health by shoring up our infrastructure trust funds with sustainable funding, providing flexible financing tools for communities, including municipal bonds, private activity bonds, and enhancements to TIFIA and WIFIA, and leveraging federal and private capital with a self-sustaining national infrastructure bank.

The NDC-endorsed bills to build funding and financing to last within the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's jurisdiction are:

- [H.R.2683](#), the Helping Communities Invest in Infrastructure Act, Rep. Sharice Davids

- [H.R. 3651](#), the Revitalizing American Priorities for Infrastructure Development (RAPID) Act, Rep. Colin Allred
- [H.R. 2474](#), the Invest in American Railroads Act, Reps. Annie Kuster and Chris Pappas

Build Resilient, Innovative Infrastructure for the Future

As we repair and modernize our nation’s infrastructure, we must build for the future by embracing innovations like high-speed rail and smart technology and materials, strengthening our communities with preparedness and resilience against threats including climate change, and supporting expansion of transportation and infrastructure development that reduces congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

The NDC-endorsed bills to build resilient, innovative infrastructure for the future within the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s jurisdiction are:

- [H.R. 512](#), the Green Bus Act, Rep. Julia Brownley
- [H.R. 1845](#), the American High-Speed Rail Act, Reps. Seth Moulton, Suzan DelBene, and Brendan Boyle
- [H.R. 867](#), the High Speed Rail Corridor Development Act, Rep. Jim Costa
- [H.R. 3334](#), the Building Up the Suburbs (BUS) Act, Reps. Carolyn Bourdeaux and Lucy McBath
- [H.R. 3566](#), the National and Regional Greenways Act, Rep. Carolyn Bourdeaux
- [H.R. 2991](#), the Connecting America’s Active Transportation System Act, Rep. Chris Pappas
- [H.R. 611](#), the ROCKS Act, Rep. Gregory Stanton
- [H.R. 382](#), the Bikeshare Transit Act, Rep. Earl Blumenauer
- [H.R. 2053](#), the Resiliency Enhancement Act, Rep. Stacey Plaskett

Build with Smart and Inclusive Planning, Zoning, and Development

In order to promote widely-shared economic growth, access to opportunity, and equity and inclusion, we should streamline and align planning and permitting processes, reform zoning and land-use policies including transit-oriented affordable housing development, and support communities with capacity building and regional planning efforts.

The NDC-endorsed bills to build with smart and inclusive planning, zoning, and development within the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s jurisdiction are:

- [H.R. 2483](#), the Build More Housing Near Transit Act, Reps. Scott Peters and Marilyn Strickland
- The Sustainable Communities Act, Rep. Norma Torres (pending reintroduction, 116th [H.R. 927](#))
- [H.R. 2177](#), the Fair Transportation Act, Rep. Norma Torres
- [H.R. 1615](#), the More TOD Act, Rep. Anthony Brown
- [H.R. 2833](#), the Reconnecting Communities Act, Reps. Anthony Brown and Lisa Blunt Rochester

We thank you for consideration of these NDC-endorsed priorities and look forward to working together to advance infrastructure legislation that embraces innovation, is built to last, promotes equity and inclusion, and creates widely-shared economic growth and good jobs.

Sincerely,



Rep. Carolyn Bourdeaux
Co-Chair, Infrastructure Task Force
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Norma Torres
Co-Chair, Infrastructure Task Force
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Suzan DelBene
Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Scott Peters
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Sharice Davids
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Del. Stacey Plaskett
Leadership Member
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Ami Bera
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



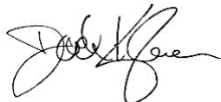
Rep. Ann McLane Kuster
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Chrissy Houlahan
Whip
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Kathy Manning
Freshman Leadership Representative
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Derek Kilmer
Chair Emeritus
New Democrat Coalition



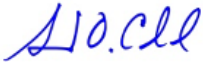
Rep. Bradley S. Schneider
Leadership Member
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Colin Allred
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Julia Brownley
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Seth Moulton
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Greg Stanton
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Jim Costa
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Chris Pappas
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Enclosure: New Democrat Coalition Infrastructure Bill Endorsements