



Businesses, Labor Unite to Protect Transit Money in Highway Bill

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- Businesses, labor groups, local governments, and others are combining forces to lobby Congress on a surface transportation reauthorization bill as the future of public transit hangs in the balance.
- The Move America Coalition is pushing for modernizing the Highway Trust Fund and permitting processes, financing roads, and keeping transit funding at or above current levels.
- The coalition's goal of protecting transit funding may conflict with House Transportation Chair Sam Graves' plan to focus the legislation on infrastructure serving cars rather than projects designed for pedestrians, bikes, and transit riders.

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The American Chamber of Commerce is leading the Move America Coalition in a push for modernizing the Highway Trust Fund and permitting processes, financing roads, and keeping transit funding at or above current levels, according to a press release. Congress is drafting a surface transportation reauthorization bill ahead of a Sept. 30, 2026 deadline to fund highways, bridges, transit systems, and other infrastructure.

"Strategic investments save future costs while keeping people and commerce moving smoothly," the coalition said in a **Dec. 4 letter** to congressional leaders.

Protecting transit funding puts the group on a potential collision course with House Transportation Chair [Sam Graves](#) (R-Mo.), who has vowed to focus the legislation before his committee on infrastructure serving cars rather than projects designed for pedestrians, bikes, and transit riders. Graves said he aims to pass the legislation in the House sometime next spring before the current funding authorities expire.

“We’re not going to be spending money on murals in train stations or bike paths or walking paths,” he said Nov. 4. “We’re going to spend money on traditional infrastructure. That’s roads and bridges.”

Funding for transit systems in places like New York City could be **contingent on anti-crime measures**, Graves told Bloomberg Government on Sept. 19.

More than two dozen groups are behind the push for the bill to include at least as much transit funding as the 2022 infrastructure law, including the Transportation Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, Transport Workers Union of America, National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, National Association of Manufacturers, American Trucking Associations, and the American Public Transportation Association—whose members include transit systems nationwide from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to the Alaska Railroad Corporation.

President Donald Trump has **threatened funding cuts** to public transit during his second administration. The White House also **limited data collection** on transit ridership amid nominal efforts to cut red tape.

“The upcoming surface transportation reauthorization provides an opportunity to build on safety progress, reduce congestion, and create infrastructure that withstands both daily demands and extreme conditions.” the coalition said in the letter.

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