

August 28, 2012

The Honorable Jan Brewer Governor of Arizona Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Brewer:

Earlier this month, President Obama signed the new surface transportation authorization known as Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). The law grants the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) significant new authority to strengthen the safety of public transportation, which is vitally important for millions of transit riders throughout the United States.

Consistent with President Obama's transit safety proposal of 2009 and MAP-21, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the States are partners in the endeavor to carry out the law's safety provisions. The new law calls on FTA to certify State Safety Oversight (SSO) agencies and to establish requirements as to what authority and standards SSO agencies must have in place to adequately protect the traveling public.

The law also provides grant money that FTA will direct to the States to comply with these new requirements. However, while the Administration initially proposed 100 percent Federal funding for this endeavor, MAP-21 requires a 20 percent non-Federal match for these grants. The law also adopts measures initially proposed by the Administration to ensure that SSO agencies are truly independent and not funded in a fashion that presents State regulators with a conflict of interest.

With our transit safety commitment entering a new era, I ask you to review your designated SSO agency to determine if they are the appropriate and legal entity to fulfill this role going forward. I also ask you to begin now to make whatever funding arrangements must be made at the State level to be prepared to match Federal grants and adequately fund this important new requirement.

The FTA's goal is to advance transit safety through a performance-based safety management system approach that maximizes safety benefits while minimizing unnecessary bureaucracy. In 2010, I directed the Transit Rail Advisory Committee for Safety, which includes State representatives, to help guide this initiative. I look forward to our partnership in this effort.

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Ray LaHood

Sincerely yours.



August 28, 2012

The Honorable Mike Beebe Governor of Arkansas Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Governor Beebe:

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The Honorable Jerry Brown Governor of California Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

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The Honorable John Hickenlooper Governor of Colorado Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

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The Honorable Rick Scott Governor of Florida Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor Scott:

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The Honorable Nathan Deal Governor of Georgia Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Deal:

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The Honorable Neil Abercrombie Governor of Hawaii Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Governor Abercrombie:

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The Honorable Pat Quinn Governor of Illinois Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Quinn:

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The Honorable Bobby Jindal Governor of Louisiana Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Jindal:

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The Honorable Martin O'Malley Governor of Maryland Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley:

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The Honorable Deval Patrick Governor of Massachusetts Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick:

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The Honorable Rick Synder Governor of Michigan Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Synder:

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The Honorable Mark Dayton Governor of Minnesota St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton:

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The Honorable Jay Nixon Governor of Missouri Jefferson City, MO 65101

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The Honorable Chris Christie Governor of New Jersey Trenton, NJ 08625

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The Honorable Andrew Cuomo Governor of New York Albany, NY 12224

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The Honorable Beverly Perdue Governor of North Carolina Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Governor Perdue:

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The Honorable John Kasich Governor of Ohio Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor Kasich:

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The Honorable John Kitzhaber Governor of Oregon Salem, OR 97301

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Ray LaHood

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August 28, 2012

The Honorable Tom Corbett Governor of Pennsylvania Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Corbett:

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August 28, 2012

The Honorable Bill Haslam Governor of Tennessee Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Governor Haslam:

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August 28, 2012

The Honorable Rick Perry Governor of Texas Austin, TX 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

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August 28, 2012

The Honorable Gary Herbert Governor of Utah Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Dear Governor Herbert:

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August 28, 2012

The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell Governor of Virgina Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor McDonnell:

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August 28, 2012

The Honorable Christine Gregoire Governor of Washington Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Gregoire:

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August 28, 2012

The Honorable Scott Walker Governor of Wisconsin Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker:

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August 28, 2012

The Honorable Vincent Gray Mayor of the District of Columbia Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Gray:

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The Honorable Luis G. Fortuño Governor of Puerto Rico San Juan, PR 00902

Dear Governor Fortuño:

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