



April 23, 2014

Senator Patty Murray, Chair  
Committee on Appropriations T-HUD  
Subcommittee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Tom Latham, Chair  
Committee on Appropriations T-HUD  
Subcommittee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Susan Collins, Ranking  
Member  
Committee on Appropriations T-HUD  
Subcommittee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Ed Pastor, Ranking  
Member  
Committee on Appropriations T-HUD  
Subcommittee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Murray, Chair Latham, Ranking Member Collins, and Ranking Member Pastor:

The undersigned members of the Senior Transportation Task Force (STTF) and other supporting organizations write to urge you to maintain funding for Department of Transportation (DOT) programs impacting older adults in the FY 2015 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (T-HUD) appropriations bill. The Senior Transportation Task Force is an informal coalition of national organizations that advocates on behalf of the transportation needs of older adults.

Adequate accessible transportation is critical to seniors to maintain an active and successful daily life. For many older Americans, access to transportation can mean the difference between home confinement and dependence or independence and productivity. Many older adults rely on public transportation in order to go shopping, visit friends or relatives, and get to work. The level of funding provided for transit and other programs will directly impact the daily lives of older adults.

STTF supports robust funding for the federal formula grant programs, in particular Section 5310, that support transit accessibility and provides services to promote mobility and independence for seniors. Strong technical assistance support is needed to make these critical systems work for this important population. STTF supports continued funding for targeted technical assistance and training activities such as the National Center on Senior Transportation (NCST). The Standards Development and Technical Assistance program that supports these critical activities should be funded at the full \$7 million authorized level, including \$1 million for the NCST. In addition, we ask that you include report language that directs FTA to prioritize technical assistance to increase mobility for older adults through the NCST.

The Task Force also supports continued funding for programs supporting rural and small communities that focus on the challenge of providing access to public transit for older adults in often under-served rural areas. Other capital grants and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs allow local governments, many of which are facing budget challenges, to provide public transit and paratransit services for older adults.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FY 2015 T-HUD Appropriations bill. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Jennifer Dexter at Easter Seals at 202-347-3066 ([jdexter@easterseals.com](mailto:jdexter@easterseals.com)) and Autumn Campbell at the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) at 202-872-0888 ([acampbell@n4a.org](mailto:acampbell@n4a.org)).

Sincerely,

Alliance for Retired Americans  
Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU)  
American Public Transportation Association (APTA)  
Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies  
Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA)  
Easter Seals  
LeadingAge  
Lutheran Services in America  
Meals On Wheels Association of America (MOWAA)  
National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)  
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)  
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)  
National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers  
National Association of RSVP Directors (NARSVPD)  
National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD)  
National Council on Aging (NCOA)  
National Indian Council on Aging, Inc. (NICOA)  
OWL-The Voice of Midlife and Older Women  
Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE)  
The Jewish Federation of North America (JFNA)  
Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW)  
Women's Institute for a Secure retirement (WISER)

cc: Members of the House and Senate Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittees