

**Statement by the**  
**Equity Caucus at Transportation for America**  
**on President Obama's**  
**State of the Union Address**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2011

Washington, DC—We applaud President Obama’s State of the Union call for smart, targeted transportation investments that connect all Americans to opportunity.

The infrastructure Americans build, operate, and repair today will create jobs now and lay the foundation for a competitive and prosperous tomorrow. But our inadequate, outdated, and underfunded transportation systems are keeping too many struggling Americans—young and old, rural and urban—from fully connecting and contributing to the national economy.

Millions of Americans rely exclusively on public transit, walking, or biking to get to work, to the doctor’s office, to school, and to the grocery store. Nearly 20 percent of African American households, 14 percent of Latino households, and 13 percent of Asian households live without a car. Fifteen percent of Native Americans must travel more than 100 miles to access basic services.

Smarter transportation investments can unleash the under-realized economic power of communities across America.

We look forward to working with President Obama and Congress to move forward a surface transportation authorization in 2011 with investments that:

- Create affordable and flexible transportation options for everyone, regardless of income, race, age, disability, or background;
- Create, protect, and ensure fair access to quality jobs, training, and contracting opportunities in the transportation industry;
- Promote healthy, safe, and inclusive communities with housing opportunities for families of all incomes; and
- Encourage fair and transparent investment of public dollars invested in transportation.

The American people want these changes, too. A recent Transportation for America poll revealed that more than two-thirds say they “would like more transportation options.”

By investing in transportation projects, America can get people back to work now, lay a strong foundation for future economic growth, and expand opportunity for millions of people. But we must target our investments equitably to the people and places that need them the most.

Americans are ready to get back to work building our future.

Alliance for Biking & Walking  
Alliance for Metropolitan Stability  
Alternatives for Community & Environment  
Amalgamated Transit Union  
America Bikes  
American Public Health Association  
Apollo Alliance  
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living  
Center for Community Change  
Center for Rural Strategies  
Center for Social Inclusion  
Change to Win  
CLASP  
Coalition for the Advancement of Regional Transportation  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Coalition on Regional Equity  
Conservation Law Foundation  
Developing Communities Project  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Equity Atlanta  
Gamaliel Foundation  
Good Jobs First  
Green for All  
Greenlining Institute  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters  
Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies  
Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity  
Labor/Community Strategy Center and Bus Riders Union  
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
Little Village Environmental Justice Organization  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation  
Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition  
Low Income Investment Fund  
Massachusetts Public Health Association  
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy  
NAACP  
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund  
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Center for Bicycling & Walking / Active Living Resource Center  
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development  
National Complete Streets Coalition  
National Congress of American Indians  
National Council of La Raza  
National Fair Housing Alliance  
National Housing Conference  
National Housing Trust  
National Low Income Housing Coalition

National Urban League  
National Wildlife Foundation  
Opportunity Agenda  
Partnership for Working Families  
PolicyLink  
Poverty & Race Research Action Council  
Public Advocates  
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  
Reconnecting America  
Redwood Coast Rural Action  
Safe Routes to School National Partnership  
Smart Growth America  
TransForm  
Transit Riders for Public Transportation  
Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO  
Transportation Equity Network  
Transportation for America  
Trust for America's Health  
Ubuntu Green  
U.S. Public Interest Research Group  
Urban Habitat  
Wider Opportunities for Women  
William C. Velásquez Institute  
YouthBuild USA

*The Equity Caucus at Transportation for America—formed by the nation's leading civil rights, community development, racial justice, economic justice, faith-based, health, housing, labor, environmental justice, tribal, public interest, women's, and transportation organizations—drives transportation policies that advance economic and social equity in America.*