

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Chairman  
House Transportation and Housing and  
Urban Development Subcommittee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Price  
Ranking Member  
House Transportation and Housing and  
Urban Development Subcommittee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Price:

We write to request that the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2017 include report language directing the Secretary of Transportation to establish a measure assessing the transportation system's ability to provide multimodal connections to economic opportunities, particularly for disadvantaged populations.

Transportation agencies have typically measured a relatively narrow list of outcomes, such as pavement condition, traffic flow and fatalities from crashes. While these outcomes are very important, they are insufficient.

Transportation networks play a critical role in connecting people to employment opportunities and providing safe, affordable access to essential goods and services, such as health care facilities, child care services, education and workforce training services, financial institutions, and grocery stores. Access to employment opportunities and essential goods and services is especially critical for communities of color, low-income families and people with disabilities.

For the first time, MAP-21 established a performance management framework intended to hold states and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) accountable for the efficacy of their transportation investment choices. The current framework includes performance measures focused on safety, infrastructure condition, congestion mitigation, and freight movement, but it does not include an accessibility measure. Report language directing the Secretary to establish an accessibility measure would correct this oversight and enable states, MPOs, and transit agencies to measure the effects of transportation planning decisions on communities that lack access to essential economic opportunities and services.

We therefore recommend the following report language for inclusion in the fiscal year 2017 THUD bill:

“TRANSPORTATION ACCESSIBILITY.— The Secretary of Transportation, in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, is directed to establish an accessibility performance measure to be used by States, metropolitan planning organizations, and transit agencies to assess the degree to which the transportation system, including public transportation, provides multimodal

connections to economic opportunities, including job concentration areas, health care services, child care services, and education and workforce training services, particularly for disadvantaged populations, and publish its final rule on such performance measure no later than the end of fiscal year 2017.”

We appreciate your attention to our concerns about the accessibility of the transportation system.

Sincerely,



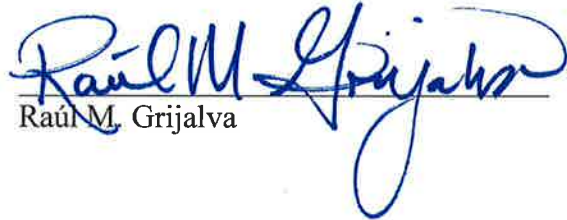
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