

Mountain Line Legislative Priorities

Federal Priorities

Ensure Reauthorization of Transportation Funding:

The 5-year funding levels authorized in the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) have been instrumental in improving infrastructure and keeping our state of good repair with a variety of programs to fit our needs. This was a historic investment and maintaining existing federal funding levels and ensuring adequate flexibility for its use are the region's top priorities. (National Transit Associations)

Seek an increase in the Small Transit Intensive Cities Set Aside from 3% to 5%:

Small Transit Intensive Cities (STIC) funding is a mechanism to provide added funding to high performing small urban transit systems (communities under 200,000 people). Increasing the set-aside does not require more funding and ensures that authorized funding is distributed to high-performing transit systems that prioritize performance. (National Transit Associations)

Advocate Transit Regulations:

- The Federal Transit Administration authorized saliva testing to meet the testing requirements for employees of transit programs nearly two years ago. The certification process and guidelines are still pending implementation by Health and Human Services. Saliva testing allows federal drug testing to identify impairment versus historical use. With legalization of marijuana in many states, it is imperative that testing standards be updated to measure impairment, like alcohol testing.
- A year ago, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) authorized a temporary waiver on certain Commercial Driver License (CDL) Testing requirements for transit operators. The waiver requires State Departments of Transportation to revise their testing methods and licensing certifications. Many states are concerned about administrative burden for a temporary condition. A permanent change to CDL licensing for transit operators is needed to make the license relevant to the job performed by these professionals.

State Priorities

State Support for Federal Transit Regulations changes:

The Transit Regulations have a far-reaching impact across Arizona. We need to work together to bring the voice of all of Arizona and our leadership to this conversation.

Dedicated funding:

Continue to engage as a stakeholder in discussions toward a dedicated statewide funding source for transportation and transit.

Ensure operational efficiencies:

Develop a strategy and identify partners to ensure operations costs are as reasonable as possible through tort law changes.

Introduce transit supportive changes to regulations and rules: (modified, ongoing)

Advocate for the State of Arizona to support transit operations through laws like Yield to Bus, Bus Stops on Roadways, and Transit Signal Priority.



Local Priorities

Codify Transit into City Regional Plan and Development Process: (continued from prior year)

Advocate for transit and inclusion of transit planning methods and features in City development plans and codes, including bus pass credits, bus operating contributions, bus lanes, bus stop investments, pedestrian crossings and bike lanes, and signal priorities.



Activate Transit considerations in Plans and Development conversations:

In addition to ensuring updated codes include transit needs, we need to be at the table with our partners when they are considering development of job centers, housing, and road changes to ensure that Transit is part of the solution. Transit is critical to affordable housing, access to jobs, school, and medical, and meeting the carbon neutrality goals of our community and partners.

Getting you where you want to go