

## Association for Commuter Transportation Transportation Re-Authorization Principles

The *Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT)* is a national organization dedicated to maximizing the investment in our nation's transportation network to meet the growing demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. ACT members effectively navigate public-private partnerships in order to provide commuters with multimodal transportation options beyond the single occupancy vehicle. ACT members utilize public funds to leverage private investments in promoting and developing projects such as last mile shuttle service, carpooling, vanpooling, transit, bike/ped, and telework programs.

The challenge facing the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress is clear: Identify and establish long-term and sustainable funding sources that increase investment in the national transportation network. Identifying or raising new funds requires gaining the confidence of the public. The public needs reassurance that new Federal monies will be utilized in a manner that clearly benefits all stakeholders. In order to secure that public support, ACT believes Congress must do more to put policies in place that insure public funds will optimize value.

ACT believes that MAP-21 provides a foundation for performance-based decisions; that ultimately maximize the use of our transportation network. However, to secure the full confidence of the public, we believe additional steps must be taken. ACT stands behind Congress; and is ready to assist in passage of legislation that identifies a long-term and sustainable funding solutions.

### ACT Stands for...

**A Transportation Network that Focuses on People Rather Than Vehicles** – Cars are never late for a meeting or to pick up their kids; people are late. However, transportation policies are largely focused on moving vehicles rather than moving people. ACT supports policies that shift decision making away from promoting the single occupancy vehicles and towards a focus on people, throughput, and the effect projects have on the transportation network.

### ACT Stands for...

#### **A Transportation Network that Maintains Economic Competitiveness**

The freedom of mobility is a cornerstone upon which this nation was built. America's waterways, railroads, highways, and transit networks have allowed its citizens to travel freely for centuries. The economy depends upon the ability of getting product to market quickly and efficiently. Nearly sixty years after the construction of the interstate highway network began; these freedoms are being challenged daily by congestion and significantly aging infrastructure. These challenges are compounded by a financial crisis that forces transportation decision makers to reduce or eliminate fundamental projects and programs because a lack of a long-term dependable and sustainable funding sources. ACT stands for maintaining economic competitiveness by promoting policies that reduce congestion and lead to an accessible and efficient transportation network.

### ACT Stands for...

**Comprehensive Financial Approach** – The basic needs of the transportation network are at risk. No stone should be left unturned in the effort to fully and responsibly finance the efficient movement of people and goods. This includes support of an indexing of the gas tax, value pricing, Vehicle Miles Traveled tax, and any other means Congress deems necessary to comprehensively fund our national transportation network. Additionally, ACT supports policies that leverage private sector investment, including the involvement of employers, to maximize the efficiency of our transportation network.



**ACT Stands for....**

**Leveraging and Collaborative Involvement of Employers and the Private Sector in the Transportation Network**

– Across the country, employers are taking an active role in their employees’ commutes. Whether it is providing last mile shuttles, alternative work hour programs, or subsidizing vanpools or transit passes, employers play a vital role in reducing congestion. Addressing transportation needs requires leveraging and promoting the investment employers are making; while integrating them into planning and using the transportation community. Federal policy must recognize and connect with users of the transportation network. ACT stands for involving new stakeholders such as employers, developers, and commuters while incorporating policies and programs aimed at encouraging efficient use of the existing transportation network.

**ACT Stands for...**

**Outcome Based Policies that Optimize the Value of the Transportation Network** – The American public demands results and our infinite transportation needs require a shift in the way decisions are made on what projects and programs are funded. ACT supports policies that compel decision makers to fund projects and programs which provide the best value for the taxpayer investment and the best utilization of the existing transportation dollars.

**ACT Stands for...**

**Efficient Multi-Modal Transportation Network that Promotes Choices and Options Rather Than a Collection of Capital Projects**

– The existing transportation project funding process draws local decision makers towards the grand opening of highly visible capital projects. Federal policy should move away from the ‘ribbon-cutting’ of individual projects towards projects that provide choices and options by combining both capital projects and operational programs and solutions to solve regional transportation problems.

**ACT Stands for...**

**Innovation**– Much has changed since the Federal Government first began building the interstate transportation network. Over the years, Federal policies allowed for and promoted innovation in developing the transportation network. As we look to the future, there is a need for continued advancement as vehicles, mobile communications, signalization and the transportation network we use change. ACT supports continued innovation led by Federal policies, research, and opportunities for pilot projects.



**ACT Stands for...**

**Choices and Options** – Many individual commuters have legitimate needs to drive to their workplace. ACT does not advocate dictating to commuters that they cannot drive. However, recent increases in public transportation ridership, vanpools, and biking and walking to work provide concrete evidence that commuters will choose alternatives to driving to work alone if there are other alternatives. In order to get the most out of the infrastructure, Federal transportation policies should work to provide commuters with more choices and the subsequent support for employers, state and local government, schools and universities to help educate the commuters about how to use those options.

**ACT Stands for...**

**Aligning Transportation Policy With Energy, Health, and Environmental Policies** –Federal transportation policies must align with other federal policies including promotion of healthy communities, energy conservation, and environmental sustainability. Legislation should lead to an increase in active modes of transportation that help reduce congestion, promote clean air and a healthy environment, while allowing for smart growth and sustainable land use policies. ACT stands for the promotion of transportation policies at the Federal, state and local level that assist in the development of livable, sustainable and healthy communities.

The Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) is a 25-year-old organization representing an established and growing group of regional agencies, nonprofit organizations and private businesses who share a commitment to developing balanced, effective transportation systems around the country and providing travel choices for all Americans. ACT’s primary mission is to increase the use of travel options and alternatives that shift mode, route, travel time, or travel need, resulting in decreased traffic congestion, enhanced mobility, and improved air quality.