



## THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20590

February 18, 2016

Dear Transportation Stakeholder:

Recently, Congress enacted the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act providing \$305 billion over the next five years for our Nation's highways, bridges, transit, and rail systems. Transportation projects create jobs. The Executive Office of the President's Council of Economic Advisers recently estimated that every \$1 billion invested in Federal highway and transit infrastructure would support 13,000 jobs.

It is important to help communities use innovative ideas and approaches to leverage their transportation funds into jobs. For example, the U.S. Department of Transportation has established a pilot program to enable recipients of Federal highway and transit funds to utilize innovative contracting requirements that are designed to create jobs that may have traditionally been disallowed due to competition concerns. We are also working closely with employers in the transportation industry to partner with State and local workforce boards, community colleges, unions, technical education providers, and others, to align skills training with transportation job demand at the State and local levels.

There are many innovative ideas and approaches in using transportation funds to create jobs. The Jobs to Move America Coalition developed one such idea, the U.S. Employment Plan, for the purchase of rolling stock. The U.S. Employment Plan is a contractual provision that provides incentives for companies to create American jobs, locate facilities in the United States, and generate opportunities for unemployed workers through recruiting and training efforts. The Department has approved the use of the U.S. Employment Plan for the procurement of rolling stock for the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Agency (for both light rail vehicles and buses), Amtrak, the Chicago Transit Authority, the Maryland Department of Transportation, and the California High Speed Rail Authority. For more information about the U.S. Employment Plan, you may visit the Jobs to Move America Coalition Web site at: [www.jobstomoveamerica.org/resources/#employment](http://www.jobstomoveamerica.org/resources/#employment).

The U.S. Employment Plan is only one example of an innovative approach to using transportation funds to create jobs. The U.S. Department of Transportation stands ready to provide technical assistance regarding Federal requirements as you develop and implement new ideas and approaches to using your transportation funding to create jobs. If you have any questions about a particular idea or approach on your federally assisted projects, please contact the appropriate agency funding your project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony R. Foxx", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Anthony R. Foxx