

**Minnesota AFL-CIO Sample Caucus Resolution**  
**PUBLIC TRANSIT INVESTMENTS SHOULD CREATE QUALITY U.S.**  
**MANUFACTURING JOBS**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That the \_\_\_\_\_ party shall support inclusion, where permissible, in all transit agency procurement Requests for Proposals (RFPs) from manufacturers of passenger railcars and buses, the policy known as U.S. Employment Plan provisions to increase the number and quality of U.S. manufacturing jobs as well as increase employment opportunities for underserved communities, thereby enhancing competition and improving product quality.

**TALKING POINTS:**

- Under U.S. Employment Plan language, manufacturers bidding to provide passenger railcars and buses on publicly funded transportation RFP's have to describe the number and quality of American jobs that will be created from the contract, as well as how they plan to develop the jobs (for example, recruitment, workforce development and training commitments). The transit agency would take this information into account when awarding the bid.
- "Big-ticket" transportation purchases using public money can and should be used to stimulate high-quality jobs and manufacturing in the United States.
- U.S. Employment language is procurement language that has successfully been used in a number of transit agencies around the country, i.e. AMTRAK, Chicago, Maryland, and Los Angeles.
- In January 2013, Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority (LA Metro), using the U.S. Employment Plan, awarded a \$305 million contract for 550 clean-fuel buses to New Flyer Industries with factories in St. Cloud and Crookston, MN. This bus order led to New Flyer expanding its factory operations in St. Cloud and adding a third shift, hiring 150 women and men from the local community.
- U.S. Employment Plan procurement policy enhances competition, encourage workforce development investment, and reward strategies to provide quality job opportunities to underserved communities and results in long-term economic benefits.
- The Jobs to Move America campaign and its U.S. Employment Plan procurement policy strengthen our relationships with community allies, environmentalists and public transportation advocates, by creating greater investment in U.S. manufacturing and high-road employment opportunities to underserved communities.



## 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 written over the word "Sincerely,".

Anthony R. Foxx