

## 2026 FEDERAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM

County Connection relies on federal transit funding for crucial capital and operational funds to ensure the implementation of a reliable and robust public transportation system. The CARES, CRRSAA, ARP, and the IIJA Acts together placed County Connection in reasonable financial condition as we begin to emerge from the Pandemic. However, the need for an on-going reliable federally funded transit program remains critical to enable County Connection to provide reliable, safe, and effective service to its constituents. Thus, County Connection supports the following:

### **Priority #1: Restore the Federal Highway & Mass Transit Fund**

County Connection supports restoring the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), so that it can continue to fully fund federal transit programs at baseline spending levels. Revenue sources for the fund should be indexed to keep up with inflation and ensure long term solvency.

### **Priority #2: Enact APTA's Recommendations on Mobility & Innovation**

County Connection supports innovative mobility solutions to increase public transportation use. Innovations should prepare the next generation of public transportation employees through workforce development.

### **Priority #3: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Reauthorization**

Federal support for public transportation is primarily administered by the Federal Transit Administration through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and is set to expire in September 2026.

- County Connection relies on vital federal funding to sustain essential programs such as vehicle replacement, ADA paratransit, and lifeline services.
- As Congress is working on the reauthorization, County Connection strongly supports renewing the IIJA at funding levels currently proposed by APTA and advocates for a new surface transportation authorization that closely mirrors the IIJA's formula and discretionary programs.
- Maintaining these funding levels is critical to preserving a state of good repair, addressing inflationary pressures, and supporting future ridership growth.