



August 21st, 2003: Transportation Equity Network Updates are weekly updates and announcements from the Center for Community Change.

They include updates on exciting grassroots campaigns; transportation equity-related accomplishments or breakthroughs in local, state or national policy; announcements on important upcoming activities; and policy alerts on breaking news in Washington, DC or elsewhere that may be of importance to parties interested in transportation equity.

As Congress begins debate on the reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, TEN updates will also serve to alert grassroots leaders to important developments in national policy. To view this update online, along with past articles, go to: http://www.transportationequity.org/ten_latest_update.shtml.

- Job Access and Reverse Commute Program Under Attack
- Sample Op Ed on JARC Appropriations
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Job Access and Reverse Commute Program Under Attack

In July the House Appropriations Committee opted to cut the JARC program, which provides resources to local communities to pay for welfare-to-work transportation projects, by 40 percent. The full House is likely to take up the Appropriations bill soon after it returns from August recess after Labor Day. The Senate Appropriations subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury and General Government is likely to take up its proposal in mid-September.

Action Needed:

Contact your Representatives and urge them to restore funding for the JARC program to the full \$150 million guaranteed in TEA-21 and proposed by the Administration.

Contact your Senators and urge them to fully fund the JARC program at the \$150 million level guaranteed in TEA-21 and proposed by the Administration.

Use the following language to a) submit an Op Ed to your local news outlets or b) send a letter to your Members of Congress.

Sample Op Ed on JARC Appropriations

When Congress returns to Washington, DC in September, the House of Representatives will be voting on a bill that will literally take money from low-income families to pay for more highway



construction. The Republican leadership of the House appropriations committee found \$5 billion more for highways, and cut a \$150 million program to help welfare recipients get to jobs and services they otherwise cannot get to by more than 40 percent.

The Job Access and Reverse Commute program is one of the brightest examples of policy coming out of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, the nation's transportation law, which is also up for renewal this year. In communities from rural Texas to New York City, thanks to the JARC program, diverse stakeholders have gathered to develop comprehensive strategies to address the transportation needs of low-income families – many of whom do not own cars, let alone ones they can rely on. And these funds have helped thousands of low-wage workers find a more reliable path to jobs and have kept these jobs.

One great example of a JARC program here in... [include example in your own community.]

Congress should take a different path. Fully fund the JARC program at the funding level proposed by the President, \$150 million. It's a modest investment that makes a real difference in the lives of working Americans struggling to get ahead. Let's not pull this support out from under them.

Table 1: Programs That May Be Cut in FY 04

Location	FY 03	FY 04 – House Proposal
AK - Alaska Mobility Coalition	\$500,000	\$0
AK - Kenai Peninsula	\$500,000	\$0
AK - MASCOT	\$200,000	\$0
AL - Jefferson County	\$3,000,000	\$0
CA – AC Transit	\$2,000,000	\$1,215,000
CA – Santa Clara County	\$500,000	\$0
CA – East Palo Alto	\$700,000	\$0
CA – MTC LIFT	\$1,000,000	\$0
CA – LA County UTRANS	\$500,000	\$0
CA – LA MTA Rideshare	\$875,000	\$0
CA – Metrolink	\$1,000,000	\$0
CO – Assoc. of Transit Agencies	\$800,000	\$0
CT – Statewide	\$3,500,000	\$3,176,000
DC – WMATA	\$2,125,000	\$800,000
FL – HART Access to Jobs	\$700,000	\$0
FL – LYNX	\$200,000	\$0
GA – Macon-Bibb County	\$775,000	\$0
IA – Statewide	\$1,000,000	\$0
IL – Ways to Work	\$500,000	\$0
IL – Rock Island	\$180,000	\$0