



28 September 2011

Ms. Olivia Chow
Member of Parliament
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Chow,

I am writing to you regarding your legislative initiative Bill C-615, *An Act to Establish a National Public Transit Strategy*. As you know, the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) has always been supportive of a strong participation of the federal government in public transit.

Indeed, we believe that close collaboration between all orders of government is essential in addressing the challenges our communities are facing when it comes to offering sustainable mobility options. We are pleased to witness that Canadians are increasingly choosing public transit as their preferred mode of transportation. In 2010, public transit ridership across Canada showed very strong growth, with an increase of 4.1% nationally over the previous year. This represents an all-time record with 1.9 billion trips taken. In order to adequately respond to the growing demand for public transit, communities must develop long-term plans with the support of their local, territorial, provincial and federal governments.

As we outlined in *Transit Vision 2040*, the establishment of a Canadian Transit Policy Framework would allow for a strategic alignment of the visions and objectives of all orders of government, when it comes to offering sustainable mobility options to Canadians. CUTA has been working closely with the federal government and all parties in the House of Commons to ensure strong and continuous support for public transit. On that front, we can be proud of what we have accomplished all together. In the last 10 years, the federal government has invested nearly \$5 billion in public transit and the NDP has played a key role in making transit a priority. We need to build on this success to develop a comprehensive and overarching approach to public transit in Canada, in a way that is respectful of all jurisdictions.

In that regard, your bill seeks to achieve our common objectives and you can count on our support to work with you and your colleagues to ensure Canada develops a strong and comprehensive transit policy framework.

Sincerely,

Michael Roschlau
President and CEO