



## **Make local and regional Public Transport a European priority, to support jobs, fight transport poverty, and drive economic growth**

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

Looking at the EU's legislative term 2024-2029 and at the future Multi-Annual Financial Framework, the authors of this letter see a strong need for a renewed focus on the fundamental role of local and regional Public Transport, both for the daily mobility of citizens and for achieving Europe's economic, social and sustainability goals.

We ask you to consider and support the following points:

- 1. Local and regional Public Transport is essential for the success of several urban goals and initiatives of the EU, starting with the Just Transition.** Its key strategic importance must be leveraged by EU policies supporting the development of an attractive and cost-efficient Public Transport sector while avoiding counteracting policies.
- 2. The EU institutions should adopt a European Declaration on Local and Regional Public Transport** highlighting the multiple positive externalities of urban, suburban, rural, and regional Public Transport services, and recommending best practices and support actions for their further growth, sustainability, and inclusiveness.
- 3. We need a solid and structured coordination, between the EU institutions and cities, regions, organizing authorities, and public transport stakeholders.** Such coordination is needed to ensure that European policies provide a coherent framework for urban, suburban, and rural mobility that is mindful of the sector's specificities.
- 4. The EU and Member States should provide sufficient funding for local and regional Public Transport,** including for zero-emission vehicles and related infrastructure, for digitalization, for multimodality, for new technologies, and for large network and infrastructure projects (e.g. new rail links, urban rail projects, bus



prioritization and Bus Rapid Transit systems). This must be anchored in the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework, in the form of continuing and improving existing funding programmes for local public transport like CEF, AFIF, and using new revenue sources (e.g. income from road charges, polluter pays mechanisms, the Emission Trading System, and the Social Climate Fund).

**5. Public Transport is the key for overcoming Transport Poverty, and EU policies and instruments should build on this solid foundation**, a task assigned to the Transport Commissioner in his Mission letter. The Social Climate Fund offers an EU instrument for this, and should be directed in a way that financially supports increased capacity and capillarity as well as accessibility in the Public Transport system.

With the above measures, local and regional Public Transport can deliver a sustainable and attractive offering, providing mobility to all citizens, supporting cities and regions in achieving their modal shift targets, and reducing Europe's overall CO2 emissions from the transport sector (mostly caused by car usage).

Together, we represent the European local and regional Public Transport sector and are available to provide you with more detailed background information. We would jointly welcome the opportunity to discuss the above points further with you.

Sincerely,

*EMTA – European Metropolitan Transport Authorities*

*UITP – International Association of Public Transport*

*EPTO – European Passenger Transport Operators*

*IRU – International Road Transport Union*

*CER – Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies*

*EUROCITIES Network*

*POLIS Network*