

Testimony
Congressman Peter J. Visclosky
House Budget Committee
Fiscal Year 2019 Member Day Hearing
May 10, 2018

I would like to thank Chairman Womack, Ranking Member Yarmuth, and all of the members of the House Budget Committee for holding today's hearing and providing this invaluable opportunity for myself and all members to address the Committee about our legislative priorities for Fiscal Year 2019.

My priority this year remains my resolute support for economic and transportation investments in the infrastructure of our country, including investments through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Capital Investment Grant program. This essential program supports transit projects across our country, including the expansion and recapitalization of the South Shore Rail Line in Northwest Indiana.

The Capital Investment Grant program is an integral component of creating economic growth in communities across our nation. I believe that people today, when considering where they want to live, work, or raise a family, are looking at public transportation options. When businesses are considering where they want to locate, and where they think vibrant new employees and markets exist, they are looking at public transportation options. When individuals and families are considering what they want to do this weekend, they are looking at events and attractions that have close proximity to public transportation options.

The investment to improve and expand the South Shore Rail Line in Northwest Indiana is but one example of the vast benefits that this program provides to communities throughout our nation. We have made great strides in Northwest Indiana because of the bipartisan commitment from local officials, state officials, businesses, and non-profit organizations. And we cannot allow this progress to go for naught.

I believe that through the Capital Investment Grant program we are creating a model in Northwest Indiana for how to maximize the potential of taxpayer dollars and make transformational investments that will grow regional economies. I want people to be able to look at Northwest Indiana and say this is how we garner bipartisan support from all levels of the community and the federal government. This is how we attract new people, new businesses, and new jobs through public transportation infrastructure investments, and this is how we improve the lives of all current residents in a community and for future generations.

As you proceed with your work in Fiscal Year 2019, I encourage you to keep in mind the untold benefits and growing economic activity associated with a robust transportation infrastructure system and how we can create budget savings from a return on public transit investments.

Thank you again for this opportunity to submit testimony.