

Congress of the United States

U.S. House of Representatives

August 7, 2025

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G St., NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

Millions of Americans rely on public transit to live their daily lives and satisfy their basic needs and obligations. In recognition of this widespread need, the Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides funding—such as through the Low or No Emission Grant Program and the Buses and Bus Facilities Grant Programs—to help transit agencies purchase buses, and for related purposes.

High transit bus manufacturing and procurement costs in the United States present unique challenges to the Americans who rely on public transportation. These costs disproportionately affect local transit agencies providing essential transportation services to our constituents. In November 2024, GAO reported that FTA has stated that bus and supply chain issues will delay the acquisition of new buses and increase the cost of new buses and related equipment.¹ In response, the agency has efforts underway to help address this challenge, including incentives to help contain bus costs and encouraging advance and progress payments on bus orders.

To help promote the efficient use of Federal, State, and local funds in procuring new buses for transit service, we are requesting that the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) conduct a study that examines the following questions:

- 1) What are the primary cost drivers in the design and procurement process for transit buses in the United States?
- 2) How do the costs to design, manufacture, and procure transit buses in the United States compare to such costs in other countries, and how have increases in transit bus costs compared to changes in the prices of medium-duty vehicles, school buses, and other commercial vehicles?
- 3) How have bus manufacturing and supplier challenges affected bus procurements funded by the Federal Transit Administration?

¹GAO, *Transit Workforce Development: Actions to Support Transition to Zero-Emission Buses*, GAO-25-106921 (Washington, D.C.: Nov. 18, 2024).

- 4) What steps have the Federal Transit Administration, States, transit agencies, manufacturers, and industry stakeholders taken to reduce bus costs and accelerate delivery timeframes?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure



Maxwell Frost
Member of Congress



Michael Turner
Member of Congress