

## **Stuck in Neutral: Public Transportation in Alabama**

### **BACKGROUND**

**A 1952 amendment to Alabama’s constitution (Amendment 93) makes it illegal to use state gasoline tax revenues for anything other than building and maintaining roads and bridges.** As a result, the most logical source of state funding for public transportation remains off limits for such services in Alabama. Without any state transit funding, Alabamians will continue to lack the public transportation options that residents of many other states enjoy. We’ll remain less mobile while being wedded to our car-dependent culture. Building a modern public transit infrastructure would provide a job-creating boost for economic development, and more fuel-efficient mobility would benefit the entire state.

**One bill** introduced this year would lay groundwork for establishing state support of public transportation, which is an Arise priority.

**HB 109**, sponsored by Rep. Patricia Todd, would increase (from 2 percent to 4 percent) the state sales tax on sales of automobiles, motorboats, truck trailers, semitrailers and travel trailers. According to the bill, “The revenue from the tax shall be used for public transportation programs approved by the county within which the fee was collected, including buses, light rail, and bike paths.”

#### **BOTTOM LINE:**

- **Inadequate funding for public transportation prevents tens of thousands of Alabamians from meeting basic needs.**
- **Alabama is one of only four states in the nation providing no state funding for public transportation.**
- **Recent studies show that investments in public transportation produce twice the number of jobs that highway projects do.**
- **Every year, Alabama leaves millions of dollars in matching federal transportation funds on the table because we can’t put up the state portion.**
- **HB 109 would open the door for future state transit funding opportunities.**