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To commemorate *[insert special occasion, if one exists]*, I would like to share with you the importance of public transportation in my District and the need for adequate investment in public transit in the future.

Public transportation does more than ease traffic congestion. It also contributes to economic development, increased safety, energy conservation, a cleaner environment, higher real estate values and more vibrant communities.

For example, in my District *[BEING AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE, INCLUDE THREE OR FOUR SENTENCES ABOUT SUCCESSUFL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY.]*

But my community isn't the only one in America where public transportation has had such astounding results. For example, public transportation use avoids the emission of more than 126 million pounds of hydrocarbons, a primary cause of smog, and 156 million pounds of nitrogen oxides, which can cause respiratory disease, around the country.

Without a doubt, the money invested in public transportation brings about significant returns. In fact, for every federal dollar invested in public transportation as many as six dollars are returned in congestion reduction, safety benefits and access to economic opportunity. At the same time, 47,500 jobs are created for each \$1 billion invested.

Clearly, public transportation plays a key role in providing opportunity, access, choice and mobility for all Americans. *[insert special occasion, as above]* is an excellent opportunity to reflect upon the benefits and future of public transportation in our country.