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This survey, which has been distributed to all Congressional candidates in your district, is meant to help educate our members and the general public impartially and on a nonpartisan basis about the policy positions of candidates for Congress. All views are welcome. Please fill out this form and return it by August 3 to barb@activetrans.org.

Please note: Each answer field has a limit of 350 characters (approximately 70 words).

Name of Candidate: Jesus “Chuy” Garcia

State and District: Illinois 4th CD

1. The 116th Congress will start work on the next surface transportation reauthorization. What are your transportation priorities? ***Increase funding for public transit especially in low-income and minority communities like the 4th CD. We also need additional funding to maintain our current transit and road systems which need that investment. The Federal government has historically funded transit and transportation and we need more funding to go into neighborhoods and especially expand bicycle and walking access.***
2. The Highway Trust Fund (HTF), which funds highway and transit projects, is funded through excise taxes on transportation related goods, the largest being taxes on gas and diesel. These fuel taxes were last increased in 1993, and have not kept pace with inflation and transportation costs. Under the current FAST Act, Congress moved \$72 billion from the general fund to the HTF for five years. What are your views on the HTF and federal funding of transportation? ***I support increasing the funding for the HTF by increasing the fuel taxes but we must also move beyond that as we develop and adopt more electric vehicles and expand mass transit. Moving to something like a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) fee would provide stable, long term funding for the HTF.***
3. Right now, 20 percent of Highway Trust Fund (HTF) dollars go to the transit fund, and 80 percent go to Highways fund. One to two percent of funding is devoted to bicycling and walking, which comes out of the Highway fund. What is your position on these funding allocations? ***We need to at least maintain and guarantee those minimal funding levels but in the future we need to expand public transit funding while maintaining the critical road infrastructure.***

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4. Last year, over 40,000 people lost their lives on our roadways. Over 16 percent of those fatalities were bicyclists and pedestrians. What role, if any, should the federal government play in roadway safety? ***The federal government could provide support and incentives for programs such as “Vision Zero” including funding for intersection modifications.***

5. The Center for Disease Control reports that physical activity maintains health, reduces the risk of developing obesity, diabetes and other chronic diseases, reduces feelings of depression and may also improve academic performance. What, if any, role should the federal government have in encouraging Americans to engage in physical activities? ***Providing funding in schools for recess and physical education should be another priority. In addition, providing public health funding and mandates for education and physical activity programs for multiple age groups in park districts, etc would be important contributions.***

6. Under the Clean Air Act, Congress requires the Environmental Protection agency to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for contaminants such as carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter (PM) and ozone (O3). Carbon dioxide (CO2) Is not covered. What, if any, role should the federal government play in regulating carbon dioxide? ***Climate change is one of the major challenges we face. I support substantial and long term efforts to limit Greenhouse gases including Carbon Dioxide.***

7. What role do bicycling, walking and public transit play in the transportation system in your district? ***There is growing use of bicycles and walking in the 4th CD and I would like to see it encouraged through expansion of DIVVY and other ride sharing programs as well as creation of more protected bicycle lanes. I also believe that we need to do more in the 4th CD to promote development around rail and train stations including affordable housing. Many people in the 4th CD rely on public transit to get to work, school, hospitals, and shopping.***