



# ANN WARNER LLC

aviation | highways | rail | water

## **Public Transportation and Rail**

Ann Warner, Managing Partner of Ann Warner LLC (AWLLC) has extensive experience in advocating for public transportation programs and projects before the U.S. Congress and the Executive Branch:

- Advocating for the highest possible funding levels for transportation and infrastructure programs;
- Developing policy proposals on behalf of her clients for inclusion in surface transportation reauthorization laws;
- Helping to secure the necessary Federal funds for client projects in authorization and appropriation bills; and,
- Assisting in obtaining the necessary Federal Transit Administration (FTA) permits and agreements providing environmental approvals, and allowing engineering and/or construction activities.

### **Highway and Public Transportation Reauthorization Laws**

During consideration of the last five surface transportation reauthorization laws, Warner worked to obtain the highest-possible funding levels for transit, highway and other programs.

*FAST Act: Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (P.L. 114-094)*

AWLLC was retained as a subconsultant to help lobby the U.S. Congress on behalf of the Getting America to Work Coalition (GATW).

Founded in 2013 by the Regional Transportation Authority (Chicago), GATW advocated for a reliable, long-term, adequately Federally-funded surface transportation reauthorization law, including transit friendly policies and funding. GATW had over 100 public sector members and private sector affiliates representing urban and rural areas of the country. The Coalition also helped to establish the Public Transportation Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives.

During the final months of the 113th Congress, Warner's activities focused on helping to set the groundwork for an aggressive education and advocacy effort during the next 114th Congress, including advising on: lobbying strategies before the U.S. Congress; ways to help secure new members for the Public Transportation Caucus; and communication tools to be used by coalition members and industry stakeholders.

*SAFETEA-LU: The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (P.L. 109-59)*

On behalf of a corporate client, Warner initiated and mobilized industry support for a Public Private Partnership (PPP) Pilot Program that





encouraged New Start projects to utilize innovative project delivery approaches and/or alternative financing options. Several projects participated in this PPP Pilot Program, which resulted in a greater acceptance and use of alternative approaches across the United States.

SAFETEA-LU also included provisions supported by Warner authorizing project activity – ranging from construction, final design, or preliminary engineering – on the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Expansion Phase I, New York East Side Access, and Silicon Valley Rapid Transit Corridor (BART to San Jose/Santa Clara Valley).

### **Rail Reauthorization Laws**

#### *Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-110)*

On behalf of her freight rail shipper client, Warner successfully mobilized the alliance in realizing the first authorization of the Surface Transportation Board (STB) since 1998. The STB Reauthorization Act of 2015 is providing needed process reforms, enhanced transparency, and increased funding that has been long-needed for the STB.

#### *Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2015 Implementation (P.L. 114-73)*

Again through Warner's leadership and initiative, her freight rail shipper client joined forces with the railroads and industry/customer stakeholders and successfully advocated for the extension of the Positive Train Control (PTC) implementation deadline to December 2018 as realized in the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2015 Implementation (P.L. 114-73).

### **Transportation Appropriations Laws**

Warner played a key role in helping to obtain funding for the following projects in numerous U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) appropriation measures:

#### *Surface Transportation Board*



Under Warner's leadership and direction, her freight rail customer's efforts on the FY 2017 appropriation front resulted in a record-level increase (from \$32 million in FY 2016 to \$37 million) for the

STB in the FY 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 115-31) This includes directing more than \$2 million in direct spending for critically-needed IT system upgrades and enhancements.

#### *Dulles Corridor Metrorail Extension Project, Virginia*



On behalf of her corporate client, its public sector customers (Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, and Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority), and numerous community stakeholders, Warner helped guide this project through the process of obtaining Federal funding to extend passenger rail service to Washington Dulles International Airport and into rapidly-developing Loudon County, VA. Warner helped secure \$110 million in Federal appropriations for the project during FYs 2003-2007.

#### *Long Island Rail Road East Side Access, New York*

On behalf of her corporate client, Warner worked with the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority to obtain



New Start funding. Warner helped secure \$210 million in Federal appropriations for the project over a four-year period, FYs 2002 - 2006.

*Silicon Valley Rapid Transit Corridor Project, Santa Clara County, California*

On behalf of her corporate client, Warner helped secure \$8.5 million in Federal New Start funding for preliminary engineering to extend BART service to San Jose during FYs 2005 and 2006.

### **Tax Laws**

*Protecting Americans From Tax Hikes (PATH) Act (P.L. 114-113)*

During Congressional consideration of a Federal tax package, Warner successfully advocated on behalf of her client GATW, for a significant tax benefit provision for public transit users setting the parking tax benefit and transit tax benefit at parity and on a permanent basis. This is a major change from previous law where the differing 2015 benefit levels were \$130 per month/for transit users and \$250 per month/parking users. The PATH Act made the tax benefit permanent and increased the 2016 transit and parking benefit to \$250 per/month.

### **Obtaining Permits and Approvals**

Warner's efforts included assisting several clients' respective project teams through the U.S. Congressional review and funding processes and the FTA New Start process, including helping to obtain approval for preliminary engineering, final design, construction, and securing favorable project ratings in the FTA Annual New Start Report(s) to Congress.

*Dulles Corridor Metrorail Extension Phase I*

Over a four-year plus period, Warner guided her corporate client (which in turn helped the public-sector client and community stakeholders) through Federal, state and local approval processes.

Warner's efforts included assisting in guiding the project team through the: U.S. Congressional review and funding process, and FTA's New Starts process, including helping to obtain approval for preliminary engineering, final design, and construction, and obtaining favorable project ratings in several FTA Annual New Start Reports to Congress.

Warner's efforts helped the project receive: FTA approval to initiate Preliminary Engineering (PE) in 2004; FTA Record of Decision (ROD) on the Final Environment Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and the Locally Preferred Alternative in 2005; and, a Federal Aviation Administration ROD in 2005. She also helped: navigate an additional FTA-required Environmental Assessment (EA) where FTA issued an amended ROD in 2006; obtain FTA's approval to enter into FD in 2008; and secure an FTA Full Funding Grant Agreement for Phase 1 in 2009. Revenue service began in 2014.

*Atlanta Northwest Corridor Development Project*



The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the Georgia Regional Transportation authority (GRTA) were public sector clients to one of Warner's U.S. multinational clients and joint venture partners.

GDOT/GRTA were seeking Federal approvals and eventual funding support of a proposed bus rapid transit and vehicle toll lanes project on Interstate 75. Warner



advised the project team when responding to information and commitment requests from the Atlanta regional office and headquarters staff of both FHWA and FTA. Warner helped position the client to move forward with the draft environmental impact statement, project scope and financing alternatives.

### Market Development

AWLLC has built brand recognition for her clients on Capitol Hill, before the Administration, and within industry.

#### *Transit Labs*

Transit Labs is a high-tech small cap startup seeking to provide transit systems and state transportation powerful analytics. The company's proprietary tool, the Transportation Reporting Application Platform, allows users to simplify the collection of data required to be submitted annually to FTA's National Transit Database (NTD); integrate NTD data reporting requirements and FTA formulas to forecast funding allocation formulas and optimize funding opportunities; and, eliminate data underreporting issues that have cost agencies funding.

Warner helped plan the company's launch party in Washington, DC. Her efforts included developing the guest list and inviting a broad spectrum of guests, including staff working for U.S. congressional committees with jurisdiction over FTA, and diversified transit industry stakeholders. Nearly 200 people attended the function.

Subsequently, Warner facilitated meetings with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. The later meeting resulted in an invitation for Transit Labs to conduct a webinar featuring the firm's product for its members.

Warner facilitated an introductory meeting for the founder/ Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Transit Labs with senior level USDOT policy decision-makers to discuss Transit Labs' current project portfolio and how the data industry

can best assist USDOT and the U.S. Congress in meeting the groundbreaking performance measurement (and data) criteria set forth in *MAP-21*.

Warner also obtained an invitation for the Transit Labs founder/CEO to address the Transportation Research Forum (TRF) - Washington Chapter. More than 50 people attended the luncheon speech.

### Trade Association Leadership



AWLLC works with existing relationships and participation in various organizations such as American Public Transportation Association (APTA), New Starts Working Group, Women in Government Relations, Women's

Transportation Seminar (WTS), and the Road Gang to gather information on topics of interest to her clients.

Warner's insight, visibility, and leadership help advance her clients' respective agendas – particularly marketing and business development efforts. Regarding alone, for well over the past decade, Warner has been and continues to be particularly active in APTA:

- Legislative Affairs Committee
- Washington Area Transportation Representatives
- Business Members Committee
- Policy and Planning Committee
- Public Private Partnerships Committee
- Reauthorization Task Force

In addition, Warner is an active member of the American Council of Engineering Companies, particularly its Washington Representatives Group, and serves as an At-Large Board Member for the TRF-Washington Chapter and Vice President, Public Affairs for TRF - National.