



July 14, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

Thanks to your leadership, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provided \$25 billion to transit agencies. With those critical funds, agencies have been able to safely move millions of essential workers to and from the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic, even as ridership plummeted and revenue streams diminished. Now, as our economy begins to recover, financial pressures brought on by the public health crisis continue to threaten our ability to provide service and keep our country working. We are requesting your help once again to include in the next COVID-19 relief bill \$32 - \$36 billion in additional funding for the public transportation industry and the workers we serve to cover COVID-related costs and revenue losses through 2021.

Together, our regions account for 46 percent of the metropolitan gross domestic product, and we move almost 22 million Americans daily. The mobility we provide is crucial to the function of our nation's economy. Our transit systems collectively move millions of students throughout the school year and are responsible for getting millions more people to work every day. For many, public transit is the only link to major medical centers and health care providers. Without additional federal assistance, many of our agencies will be forced to make difficult decisions that will negatively impact the lives of essential workers and the returning workforce.

While the initial CARES Act funding allows us to keep trains and buses running today, the funding will not sustain us through this protracted crisis, the breadth and depth of which is still unknown. As state and local tax revenues that many agencies rely on continue to fall, some transit systems may be forced to lay

off the workers who have operated the systems through the pandemic. Others are considering cutting or even curtailing service just when the public needs transit to get back to work and school.

In addition, several transit systems are halting on-going or delaying shovel ready capital projects that can sustain our economy during the pandemic and help us in the recovery. Investments in transit infrastructure generate four dollars of economic activity for every dollar invested and create a supply chain that touches all 50 states and the national job market. Capital spending will be critical to broad economic recovery, and additional federal aid will help these agencies maintain vital infrastructure projects.

Our country will not experience a full recovery if the transit systems that move our economy are not fully functional. We need federal support for public transportation in the next relief package to secure transit's future and the nation's economy.

Sincerely,

Randy Clarke  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Capital Metro  
Austin, TX

John M. Lewis, Jr.  
Chief Executive Officer  
Charlotte Area Transit System  
Charlotte, NC

Gary Thomas  
Chief Executive Officer  
Dallas Area Rapid Transit  
Dallas, TX

Inez Evans  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
IndyGo  
Indianapolis, IN

Tom Gerend  
Executive Director  
Kansas City Streetcar Authority  
Kansas City, MO

Phillip A. Washington  
Chief Executive Officer  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan  
Transportation Authority (Metro)  
Los Angeles, CA

Joanna M. Pinkerton  
President/CEO  
Central Ohio Transit Authority  
Columbus OH

Dorval R. Carter, Jr.  
President  
Chicago Transit Authority  
Chicago, IL

India Birdsong  
General Manager, Chief Executive Officer  
Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority  
Cleveland, OH

Nathaniel P. Ford, Jr.  
Chief Executive Officer  
Jacksonville Transportation Authority  
Jacksonville, FL

Rob Gannon  
General Manager  
King County Metro  
Seattle, WA

Alice N. Bravo, P.E.  
Director  
Department of Transportation and Public Works  
Miami, FL

Kevin Quinn  
Administrator  
MDOT MTA  
Baltimore, Maryland

Kevin S. Corbett  
President & CEO  
NJ TRANSIT  
Newark, NJ

M.J. Maynard  
Chief Executive Officer  
Regional Transportation Commission of  
Southern Nevada (RTC)  
Las Vegas, NV

Robert M. Powers  
General Manager  
San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District  
(BART)  
Oakland, CA

Jim Hartnett  
General Manager/CEO  
San Mateo County Transit District / Caltrain  
San Carlos, CA

Leslie S. Richards  
General Manager  
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation  
Authority (SEPTA)  
Philadelphia, PA

Jeffrey Arndt  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
VIA Metropolitan Transit  
San Antonio, TX

Steve Poftak  
General Manager, Chief Operating Officer  
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority  
Boston, MA

Patrick J. Foye  
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
New York, NY

Alex Z. Wiggins  
Chief Executive Officer  
New Orleans Regional Transit Authority  
New Orleans, LA

Paul J. Ballard  
Chief Executive Officer  
General Manager  
Regional Transportation District  
Denver, CO

Jeffrey Tumlin  
Director of Transportation  
SFMTA  
San Francisco, CA

Peter M. Rogoff  
Chief Executive Officer  
Sound Transit  
Seattle, WA

Darryl Haley  
CEO & General Manager  
Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority  
Cincinnati, OH

Paul J. Wiedefeld  
CEO and GM  
WMATA  
Washington, DC

cc:

Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Kamala D. Harris  
Senator Michael F. Bennet  
Senator Cory Gardner  
Senator Marco Rubio  
Senator Rick Scott  
Senator Richard J. Durbin  
Senator Tammy Duckworth  
Senator Todd Young  
Senator Mike Braun  
Senator Bill Cassidy  
Senator John Kennedy  
Senator Benjamin L. Cardin  
Senator Chris Van Hollen  
Senator Ed Markey  
Senator Elizabeth Warren  
Senator Roy Blunt  
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Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
Senator Catherine Cortez Masto  
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Senator Robert Menendez  
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Senator Thom Tillis  
Senator Sherrod Brown  
Senator Rob Portman  
Senator Robert P. Casey  
Senator Patrick J. Toomey  
Senator John Cornyn  
Senator Ted Cruz  
Senator Mark R. Warner  
Senator Tim Kaine  
Senator Patty Murray  
Senator Maria Cantwell