



The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor  
 State of California  
 State Capitol, Suite 1173  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins, President pro  
 Tempore  
 California State Senate  
 State Capitol, Room 205  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker  
 California State Assembly  
 State Capitol, Room 209

July 28, 2020

President pro Tem Atkins, Speaker Rendon, and Members of the California State Legislature:

Our coalition of labor, business, environmental and social justice leaders respectfully **urge you to provide new emergency funding to California’s transit agencies to address their funding shortfall of at least \$3.1 billion.** Without state funding this year, transit service will be reduced and risks permanent elimination.

Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on California’s local public transit agencies have been devastating. Transit agencies across the state now face an existential crisis that threatens the availability of transit service in the near-and long-term. Statewide, transit agencies have seen steep declines in ridership and revenues, putting immense strain on agency budgets. As a result, they have been forced to dramatically reduce or suspend services – limiting mobility

options for essential and frontline workers, as well as disadvantaged communities who rely on transit services to commute to work. Many of these people do not have other transportation options.

A recent analysis by the California Transit Association shows the funding shortfall facing transit agencies statewide, after accounting for the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, now exceeds \$3.1 billion. These funding shortfalls threaten the operational viability of transit agencies of all sizes, operating in rural, suburban and urban communities across the state.

**Without additional funding, it could take decades for public transit to recover from today's crisis, resulting in the elimination of important mobility options for millions of Californians and an unnecessary delay to California's economic recovery.**

Ensuring California's public transit agencies can continue to provide service is critical to a balanced economic recovery, our quality of life and to achieving our state's ambitious environmental goals.

Please help us save local public transit.

Sincerely,

Joshua W. Shaw, Executive Director  
**California Transit Association**

Alice Huffman, President  
**California State NAACP**

Shane Gusman, Director  
**California Teamsters Public Affairs Council**

Michael Quigley, Executive Director  
**California Alliance for Jobs**

Michael Lawson, President & CEO  
**Los Angeles Urban League**

Colin Parent, Executive Director & General Counsel  
**Circulate San Diego**

Maria S. Salinas, President & CEO  
**Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce**

Louie Costa, Director  
**SMART – Transportation Division  
California State Legislative Board**

Lisa Rapp, Legislative Committee Chair  
**The California Chapters of the American  
Public Works Association**

Kiana Valentine, Executive Director  
**Transportation California**

Shane Gusman, Legislative Advocate  
**California Conference Board of the  
Amalgamated Transit Union**

Jacklyn Montgomery, Executive Director  
**California Association for Coordinated  
Transportation (CalACT)**

Curtis Child, Director of Legislation  
**Disability Rights California**

Jay King, President & CEO  
**California Black Chamber of Commerce**

Bill Higgins, Executive Director  
**California Association of Councils of  
Government**

Maribel Nunez, Executive Director  
**Health and Human Services Network of  
California**

Jason Baker, Vice President, Transportation,  
Housing & Community Development  
**Silicon Valley Leadership Group**

Stuart Waldman, President  
**Valley Industry & Commerce Association**

Tracey Hernandez, Founding CEO  
**Los Angeles County Business Federation**

Brandon Black, Director of Public Policy  
**Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce**

Patrick Guild, Deputy Director  
**Breathe California Sacramento Region**

Gwen Litvak, Senior Vice President  
**Bay Area Council**

Mark Strickert, President  
**Southern California Transit Advocates**

Bart Reed, Executive Director  
**The Transit Coalition**

James Watt McCormick, Chair  
**Subway to the Sea Coalition**

Colin Fiske, Executive Director  
**Coalition for Responsible Transportation  
Priorities**

Maribel Nunez, Executive Director  
**Inland Equity Partnership**

Rosanne Foust, President and CEO  
**San Mateo County Economic Development  
Association (SAMCEDA)**

Jessica Lall, President & CEO  
**Central City Association – Los Angeles**

Joyce Lane, Public Policy Co-Chair  
**San Diego350—Climate Change Action**

James Watt McCormick, Chair  
**Coalition for Rapid Transit**

Jack Swearengen, Chair  
**Friends of SMART**

cc: The Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom  
David Kim, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency