



The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
 United States House of Representatives H-232.
 United States Capitol
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader
 United States Senate S-230.
 United States Capitol
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader
 United States House of Representatives H-204.
 United States Capitol
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer, Minority Leader
 United States Senate S-221.
 United States Capitol
 Washington, DC 20510

August 4, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer:

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 federal 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

Kiana Valentine, Executive Director
Transportation California

Alice Huffman, President
California State NAACP

Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League

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

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

Shane Gusman, Director
California Teamsters Public Affairs Council

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

Michael Quigley, Executive Director
California Alliance for Jobs

Curtis Child, Director of Legislation
Disability Rights California

Michael Lawson, President & CEO
Los Angeles Urban League

Jay King, President & CEO
California Black Chamber of Commerce

Colin Parent, Executive Director & General Counsel
Circulate San Diego

Bill Higgins, Executive Director
California Association of Councils of Government

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

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

Denny Zane, Executive Director
Move LA

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

Gwen Litvak, Senior Vice President
Bay Area Council

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

Mark Strickert, President
Southern California Transit Advocates

James Watt McCormick, Chair
Subway to the Sea Coalition

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

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 Swearingen, Chair
Friends of SMART

CC: Secretary Elaine Chao, US Department of Transportation