



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 44 percent of the metropolitan gross domestic product, and we move almost 20 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
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Chief Executive Officer
Jacksonville Transportation Authority
Jacksonville, FL

Rob Gannon
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Department of Transportation and Public Works
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Kevin Quinn
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Baltimore, Maryland

Kevin S. Corbett
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Jeffrey Tumlin
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Peter M. Rogoff
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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
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Senator Kamala D. Harris
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Senator Rick Scott
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Senator Tammy Duckworth
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