



Public Transit Emergency Funding COVID-19 Emergency Response Legislation Talking Points

September 9, 2020

- The COVID-19 pandemic has driven home the vital role public transit plays in our communities, bringing healthcare professionals to the frontlines, delivering groceries and medicine to at-risk populations, and connecting essential workers to their places of work.
- Without additional emergency funding, many transit agencies will need to consider cutting transit services and routes and furloughing transit workers.
- **APTA urges Congress to provide at least \$32 billion of additional emergency public transit funding in any COVID-19 emergency response legislation.**
- These additional emergency funds are critical to ensuring that public transit can continue to be a lifeline for our essential workers and help our communities rebuild their economies in the wake of the pandemic.
- These funds are also critical to maintain the manufacturing and supply chain and limit the enormous economic damage to public transportation businesses caused by the pandemic.
- According to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), as of August 25, 2020, **public transit agencies have obligated 90 percent of CARES Act transit funds** through 676 grants totaling nearly \$22.5 billion of the \$25 billion appropriated.
- As a result, public transit agencies need additional emergency funding to continue to provide essential services in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. APTA estimates that the shortfall of additional COVID-19 costs and revenue losses is at least \$32 billion, above the funding provided in the CARES Act.

If you have a story about how COVID-19 has directly or indirectly impacted your public transit agency or business and the dire need for additional transit emergency funding, please share it with congressional offices.