



**AMERICAN
PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION
ASSOCIATION**

August 6, 2020

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Nuria I. Fernandez

VICE CHAIR

Jeffrey A. Nelson

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Freddie C. Fuller II

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

David M. Stackrow, Sr.

Dorval R. Carter, Jr.
Francis "Buddy" Coleman
Michael Goldman
Huelon A. Harrison
Kevin J. Holzendorf
Karen H. King
Michele Wong Krause
Jeanne Krieg
Thomas C. Lambert
Adelee Marie Le Grand
Richard J. Leary
Henry Li
Raymond J. Melleady
Brad Miller
Allan Pollock
Leanne P. Redden
Catherine Rinaldi
Doug Tisdale
William T. Thomsen
Matthew O. Tucker
Thomas Waldron

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

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

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

On behalf of America's commuter railroads, which create and support more than 200,000 public- and private-sector jobs, **we urge you to provide at least \$32 billion in additional funding for public transportation, including commuter railroads, in the pending COVID-19 emergency response legislation.** These funds will help offset the extraordinary direct costs and revenue losses that public transit agencies, including commuter railroads, are experiencing as a result of the pandemic, and help our agencies continue to avoid layoffs of this critical workforce.

We greatly appreciate your leadership in enacting the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (P.L. 116-136). CARES Act funding provided a critical lifeline to enable our agencies to serve healthcare and other essential workers each and every day.

However, over the past two months, in many states and communities, things have taken a turn for the worse—coronavirus cases are spiking, governors and mayors are renewing stay-at-home orders, and businesses are shutting down. The continued pandemic and second wave of restrictions is having an enormous impact on commuter railroads. Our railroads have faced ridership declines of close to 90 percent with a corresponding loss in farebox revenues, and have also seen steep declines in dedicated sales tax, gas tax, and other state and local tax revenues.

PRESIDENT AND CEO

Paul P. Skoutelas

1300 I Street NW
Suite 1200 East
Washington, DC 20005
p: (202) 496-4800
f: (202) 496-4324

APTA.COM

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Charles E. Schumer, Nancy Pelosi, and Kevin McCarthy

August 6, 2020

Page 2

We urge you to support the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) request of **at least \$32 billion in emergency funding for public transportation** to stabilize our industry, enable us to continue to serve our communities throughout the crisis, and provide a foundation for America's economic recovery from COVID-19. Commuter railroads serve as a critical lifeline for essential workers and others to travel from suburban communities to city centers to work, receive healthcare, and support the economy.

The House of Representatives recognized the urgent need to continue to support and stabilize public transportation by providing significant additional COVID-19 funding for public transportation in both H.R. 6800, The Heroes Act, and H.R. 2, the INVEST in America Act.

As you work together to finalize the pending COVID-19 emergency response legislation, we urge Congress to provide at least \$32 billion in additional funding for public transportation, including commuter railroads. Federal support remains critical to stabilize our industry and allow us to sustain our communities, workforce, and our nation as we recover from the economic fallout of the pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew O. Tucker
Chair, Commuter Rail CEOs Committee, APTA
Executive Director
North County Transit District
(NCTD)
Oceanside, CA

William G. O'Leary
President and Chief Executive Officer
Alaska Railroad Corporation
Anchorage, AK

Randy Clarke
President and Chief Executive Officer
Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority
(Capital Metro)
Austin, TX

Gary C. Thomas
President/Executive Director
Dallas Area Rapid Transit
(DART)
Dallas, TX

James M. Derwinski
1st Vice-Chair, Commuter Rail CEOs Committee,
APTA
Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director
Metra
Chicago, IL

Jim Hartnett
Chief Executive Officer
Caltrain
(Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board)
San Carlos, CA

Joseph J. Giulietti
Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Transportation
Newington, CT

Raymond Suarez
Chief Executive Officer
Denton County Transportation Authority
(DCTA)
Lewisville, TX

Kevin B. Quinn, Jr.
Administrator
Maryland Transit Administration
(MTA)
Baltimore, MD

Wes Kooistra
General Manager
Metro Transit
Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

Paul Ballard
Interim General Manager and
Chief Executive Officer
Regional Transportation District
(RTD)
Denver, CO

Farhad Mansourian
General Manager
Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District
(SMART)
Petaluma, CA

Steven L. Abrams
Executive Director
South Florida Regional Transportation Authority
(Tri-Rail)
Pompano Beach, FL

Stephanie Wiggins
Chief Executive Officer
Southern California Regional Rail Authority
(Metrolink)
Los Angeles, CA

Bob Baulsir
President and Chief Executive Officer
Trinity Metro
Fort Worth, TX

Rich Dalton
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Virginia Railway Express
(VRE)
Alexandria, VA

Steve Poftak
General Manager
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
(MBTA)
Boston, MA

Kevin S. Corbett
President and Chief Executive Officer
New Jersey Transit Corporation
(NJ TRANSIT)
Newark, NJ

Dewey V. Cave
Chief Executive Officer
Rio Metro Regional Transit District
(Rio Metro)
Albuquerque, NM

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

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

Doug Kelsey
General Manager
Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of
Oregon
(TriMet)
Portland, OR

Carolyn M. Gonot
Executive Director
Utah Transit Authority
(UTA)
Salt Lake City, UT

Stephen G. Bland
Chief Executive Officer
WeGo Public Transit/ Regional Transit Authority of
Middle Tennessee (RTA)
Nashville, TN

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Charles E. Schumer, Nancy Pelosi, and Kevin McCarthy
August 6, 2020
Page 4

cc: The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer, Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable John Thune, Majority Whip, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Steve Scalise, Republican Whip, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Democratic Whip, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey, Chairwoman, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby, Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio, Chair, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mike Crapo, Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Roger Wicker, Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Richard Neal, Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman, Committee on Finance, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Sherrod Brown, Ranking Member, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Kevin Brady, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Committee on Finance, U.S. Senate

The Honorable David E. Price, Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Susan M. Collins, Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, Chair, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable David Perdue, Chairman, Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Deb Fischer, Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation and Safety, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Jack Reed, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Rodney Davis, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Robert Menendez, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, U.S. Senate, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Transportation and Safety, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, U.S. Senate