



August 6, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

I am writing as Chair of the [North American Transit Alliance \(NATA\)](#) in support of the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) request for an additional \$32 billion in emergency public transit funding in the next COVID-19 emergency response legislation. This additional funding is critical to ensure that public transportation services are not compromised and that transit agencies and their contractors can continue to keep public transportation workers employed.

NATA is comprised of the six largest private transit contracting firms that operate and maintain critical Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit, fixed route, commuter rail and other transportation services on behalf of U.S. transportation agencies nationwide. NATA was created during the COVID-19 pandemic at a time when our country, our economy, and public health were put under tremendous strain and faced unprecedented challenges. Our member organizations make up 35 percent of the U.S. public transportation workforce, encompassing more than 154,000 total employees in 46 states and over 2000 cities. NATA members help cities in North America, especially now, by providing innovative transportation solutions to ensure transit is safe, clean and prepared for challenges that lie ahead. Nearly a



NORTH AMERICAN TRANSIT ALLIANCE

third of transit agencies in the U.S. contract with the private sector to operate all or a portion of their transit service.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of public transportation for many healthcare professionals and other essential workers. Safe, effective public transportation will help get the U.S. back to work and also often is the only means of transportation for low income persons and those who are elderly and disabled and need to travel to jobs, doctor's appointments and to purchase groceries and other essentials. NATA member companies are responsible for a large percentage of transporting some of our most vulnerable citizens, who are adversely affected during this crisis. Additionally, workers classified as essential during the COVID-19 emergency account for 36 percent (2.8 million) of total transit commuters in the United States.¹

Public transportation agencies are experiencing unplanned additional expenses, including cleaning costs and the cost of personal protective equipment (PPE), in addition to reduced farebox revenues and deficits in state and local funding. With COVID-19 cases spiking around the country, APTA estimates that the shortfall of additional transit COVID-19 costs and revenue losses is now at least \$32 billion.

APTA has reported that transit agencies have obligated about 80 percent of their CARES Act funds; therefore, it is critical that Congress make additional funding available for public transportation. Transit agencies and contractors alike need sufficient funds to keep the workforce employed, provide essential transportation services, and be ready to scale up reduced services when the pandemic subsides.

Thank you for your consideration and your hard work on our country's behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dick Alexander'.

Dick Alexander

¹ <https://transitcenter.org/2-8-million-u-s-essential-workers-ride-transit-to-their-jobs/>