

The Honorable Mark R. Warner
United States Senator, Virginia
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Timothy Kaine
United States Senator, Virginia
231 Russell Senate Office
Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Robert J.
Wittman
Virginia-1st, Republican
2055 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515-4601

The Honorable Elaine G. Luria
Virginia-2nd, Democrat
534 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515-4602

The Honorable Robert C.
"Bobby" Scott
Virginia-3rd, Democrat
1201 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515-4603

The Honorable A. Donald
McEachin
Virginia-4th, Democrat
314 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515-4604

The Honorable Denver
Riggleman
Virginia-5th, Republican
1022 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515-4605

The Honorable Ben Cline
Virginia-6th, Republican
1009 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515-4606

The Honorable Abigail D.
Spanberger
Virginia-7th, Democrat
1239 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515-4607

The Honorable Donald S. Beyer
Jr.
Virginia-8th, Democrat
1119 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515-4608

The Honorable H. Morgan
Griffith
Virginia-9th, Republican
2202 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515-4609

The Honorable Jennifer Wexton
Virginia-10th, Democrat
1217 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515-4604

The Honorable Gerald E.
Connolly
Virginia-11th, Democrat
2238 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515-4611

July 30, 2020

RE: Pandemic Relief Package - Public Transit Emergency Aid

Dear Senator Warner, Senator Kaine, Representative Wittman, Representative Luria, Representative Scott, Representative McEachin, Representative Riggleman, Representative Cline, Representative Spanberger, Representative Beyer, Representative Griffith, Representative Wexton, and Representative Connolly:

I am writing on behalf of the Virginia Transit Association to request your support in securing the necessary \$32 billion for aid for our nation's public transportation agencies including the nearly four dozen public transit and commuter assistance programs that span our Commonwealth.

In 2019, public transportation and commuter assistance programs in Virginia handled 177 million trips or 485,000 trips each-and-every day. These programs generated \$3.5 billion in economic benefits for Virginia's economy, created/sustained over 28,000 jobs, removed nearly 115,000 automobiles from our roads, and reduced our greenhouse gas emissions by 187,000 metric tons.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, ridership on public transportation was growing. Like all mass transportation modes (including the airline industry which is projecting a loss of \$314 billion in ticket sales), our public transportation networks have been severely impacted by the pandemic with greatly reduced ridership and ticket revenue. However, we must remember that this is not a transportation crisis but a health crisis, and until we are able to successfully mitigate the impact from COVID-19 we must ensure that our public transportation systems continue to serve those that must travel while being ready to help Virginians reopen and rebuild our economy.

I appreciate your continued support of public transportation and kindly request, on behalf of the tens of thousands Virginians who use public transit every day and the nearly 30,000 Virginia jobs related to transit, your support for the inclusion of the \$32 billion for our nation's public transportation systems.

You may reach me at LGuthrie@LMG-LLC.net or 804-643-1166 if you have any questions or if I might be of any assistance.

Regards,

Lisa Guthrie

Executive Director

Virginia Transit Association

Lisa M. Guthrie; Executive Director

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Richmond, VA 23219

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