



Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District

Board of Directors

March 18, 2020

Joe Wallace, President
Ward I

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Elsa Ortiz, Vice President
Ward III

Greg Harper
Ward II

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

Mark A. Williams
Ward IV

Diane Shaw
Ward V

H. E. Christian Peoples
Director at Large

AC Transit is a critical, regional public transportation link for the Bay Area; moving over 170,000 people each weekday including over 14,000 people across the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge from the East Bay into San Francisco. However, the COVID-19 spread in the Bay Area is having a significant and immediate impact on AC Transit ridership, we expect that this week's shelter-in-place order in Alameda and Contra Costa counties will have significant impacts on ridership, beyond what we have already experienced. AC Transit strongly urges Congress to provide public transit agencies with direct financial assistance to ensure the continuation of safe and reliable service. The current ridership declines represent a direct reduction in critical operating funds.

Joel B. Young
Director at Large

Board Officers

Michael A. Hursh
General Manager

Last week, AC Transit ridership was down approximately 40%. We expect a precipitous drop this week with the order to shelter-in-place.

Jill A. Sprague
General Counsel

Linda A. Nemeroff
District Secretary

The chart below shows the impact on our passenger fare revenue with incremental ridership decreases compared to expected levels at this time of year:

	Ridership	Fares (Average)	-40% Ridership Loss	-80% Ridership Loss	-90% Ridership Loss
Average Weekday	172,647	\$196,818	\$-78,727	\$-157,454	\$-177,136
Average Saturday	87,365	\$99,596	\$-39,838	\$-79,677	\$-89,636
Average Sunday	75,818	\$86,433	\$-34,573	\$-69,146	\$-77,790
Weekly Totals	1,026,418	\$1,170,117	-\$468,047	-\$936,093	-\$1,053,105

As detailed above, a weekday ridership loss of 40% has an estimated revenue loss of approximately \$78,727 each day and \$468,047 per week. In addition to the immediate fare revenue loss AC Transit's operating budget is substantially funded by various tax measures, most significantly sales and fuel taxes. While we are unable to quantify the exact loss, we estimated losing millions of dollars in revenue.



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We continue to provide regular service levels; we've increased cleaning to help reduce the spread of the virus and we've re-focused staff time of several key members to respond to the crisis while simultaneously working to maintaining staffing levels in order to continue providing service to those in our communities that need it the most. AC Transit has limited options to reduce operating expenses in the short-term – to the contrary, our operating expenses have increased while revenues have decreased.

President Trump recently signed the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act which will provide a total of \$8.3 billion to support response efforts to the virus with \$950 million set aside for state and local efforts; including infection control at the local level to prevent additional cases. However, neither the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention nor the State of California have yet to issue guidance on whether a local special district, such as AC Transit, could directly apply for funding.

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As a local agency and an essential public transit service provider, we are still in operation providing an essential service during the crisis. AC Transit needs to receive federal funding to help reduce the spread of the virus and to maintain our service levels.

Additionally, we strongly urge Congress to act to protect public transit agencies from future cuts to funding resulting from temporary ridership loss caused by the pandemic crisis. Formula funds are based in part on ridership from the previous year. Without Congressional action, public transit agencies may face additional financial pressure next year after the crisis is over due to reduced ridership during the crisis.

We request your support in securing funds for AC Transit so we may continue to fulfill our key role in safely connecting the region and maintaining critical lifeline access throughout the Bay Area; especially for health care workers, first responders and the most vulnerable in our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Joe Wallace', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Joe Wallace
President, AC Transit Board of Directors

cc:
AC Transit Board of Directors
Representative Barbara Lee



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Representative Eric Swalwell
Representative Mark DeSaulnier
Representative Ro Khanna
Representative David Price, Chair House THUD Appropriations
Representative Mario Diaz Balart,
Ranking Member THUD Appropriations
Representative Peter DeFazio, Chair House T&I
Representative Sam Graves, Ranking Member House T&I
AC Transit General Manager Michael Hursh