



Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District

Board of Directors

March 18, 2020

Joe Wallace, President
Ward I

Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Elsa Ortiz, Vice President
Ward III

Greg Harper
Ward II

Dear Governor Newsom,

Mark A. Williams
Ward IV

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 the State 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.

Diane Shaw
Ward V

H. E. Christian Peoples
Director at Large

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 estimate losing millions of dollars in revenue.



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We continue providing 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.

Last week's state of emergency declaration allows the State to make additional resources available and requires the Office of Emergency Services provide aid to local governments that have demonstrated extraordinary or disproportionate impacts from COVID-19.

As a local agency and an essential public transit service provider, we are still in operation providing an essential service during the crisis. We believe AC Transit is directly eligible for emergency funding under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act. Once the Legislature appropriates additional resources, we request your support in securing funds for AC Transit so that we may continue providing critical service to the 13 cities we serve in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties – getting people to work, school and medical appointments daily.

We strongly urge you to act to protect public transit agencies from future cuts to funding resulting from temporary ridership loss caused by the pandemic crisis.

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
Senator Nancy Skinner
Senator Bob Wieckowski
Assemblymember Rob Bonta
Assemblymember Bill Quirk
Assemblymember Buffy Wicks
Assemblymember Kansen Chu
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Senate President pro Tempore, Toni G. Atkins
Budget Senate Chair Holly Mitchell



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Budget Assembly Chair Phil Ting
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Senate Appropriations Chair Anthony Portantino
Assembly Appropriations Chair Lorena Gonzalez
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Mark Ghilarducci, Director, Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Keely Martin Bosler, Director, Department of Finance
Rhonda Paschal, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor