



Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District

Michael Hursh, General Manager

May 15, 2020

The Honorable Congressman Ro Khanna
United States House of Representatives
Cannon House Office Building, Room 513
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Congressman Mark DeSaulnier
United States House of Representatives
Cannon House Office Building, Room 327
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Congressman Eric Swalwell
United States House of Representatives
Cannon House Office Building, Room 513
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Congressmember Barbara Lee
United States House of Representatives
Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2470
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kamala Harris
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmembers Khanna, Swalwell, Lee and DeSaulnier and Senators Feinstein and Harris,

On behalf of AC Transit and all who rely on public transportation, I thank you for providing emergency funding for public transit agencies in the Coronavirus Aid, Resources, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and for including supplemental funding for transit agencies in the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act. With your support, California's transit agencies have already received \$3.74 billion in *new* transit funding that has helped us weather the most immediate impacts of the pandemic.

Unfortunately, the financial crisis facing public transit agencies has only grown, and the threat of permanent reductions and elimination of local public transit services loom large without additional financial assistance. **As the next round of supplemental funding is finalized, we are respectfully urging Congress to include at least \$23.8 billion in supplemental funding to public transit agencies, operating in communities of all sizes, in the next funding package.**

AC Transit has experienced a ridership reduction of 74% and revenue losses of \$5 Million per month. For the safety of riders and operators, we've implemented social distancing requirements onboard, maximum ridership thresholds per bus, we stopped collecting fares six weeks ago and have been forced to reduce service levels including the temporary suspension of some service lines. Additionally, we've spent an additional \$1 Million on personal protection equipment and equipment to support staff working from home during shelter in place. The

supplemental funding level we are requesting is necessary to prevent further, substantial harm to our service. AC Transit also depends on sales tax revenues (approximately \$16M a month) that will take a significant hit during the current shelter-in-place and the following long recovery period. As a result of the declines in revenue, AC Transit has started its planning process to reduce service by 20% in early 2021.

In addition to this request for supplemental funding, we urge you to enact the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act prior to its expiration in September. Now is the time to invest more in our nation's public transportation infrastructure to support jobs, reconnect Americans, and build the necessary infrastructure network to provide critical public transit services and economic opportunities for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael Hursh
General Manager

cc: AC Transit Board of Directors
California Transit Association