

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-220, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

March 20, 2020

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

As both chambers work on additional stimulus measures to mitigate the severe economic disruption caused by COVID-19, including financial assistance to impacted industries, we write to urge you to keep in mind the needs of **public transit agencies and their workforce**. After coordinating with agencies around the country, the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) has determined that **\$16.0 billion for operational costs** is needed to sustain the financial viability of our country's transit systems.

This immediate financial need is due to a dramatic decrease in ridership, corresponding decreases in farebox revenue, and increasing costs for cleaning supplies and protocols -- all directly associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Even with decreased ridership, transit agencies must remain in operation so people can access food, doctors, pharmacies, jobs, and childcare. Those most reliant on public transportation include communities of color, low-income communities, and people with significant cognitive and physical disabilities that use paratransit services.

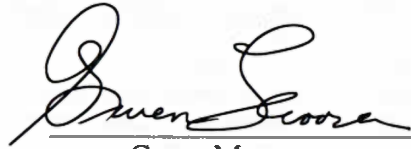
Further, financial support for transit agencies must be available to cover operational needs rather than capital investments. The Federal Transit Administration's increased flexibility in using capital investment funds is helpful only in the short-term. Ultimately, using capital funds to cover operational costs will only increase maintenance backlogs and negatively impact the safety and viability of our transit systems. Additionally, protections must be put in place so that decreased ridership does not negatively impact transit agencies due to federal funding formulas that are based on a previous year's ridership totals.

The need of our transit agencies is urgent -- not just for those that depend on its services -- but for the hundreds of thousands of people the industry employs including contract workers. We must act to prevent a degradation in service and a loss of jobs that could take years to recover from. We look forward to working together to support this critical transportation industry. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Jan Schakowsky
Anthony G. Brown
Barbara Lee
Marcia L. Fudge
Alan Lowenthal
Gerald E. Connolly
Tim Ryan
Ayanna Pressley
Cindy Axne
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Mark Pocan
Joaquin Castro
Lori Trahan
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Grace F. Napolitano
Mike Quigley
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
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