

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 29, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

As you negotiate the upcoming COVID-19 relief package, we urge you to include \$32 billion in emergency supplemental funding for public transportation agencies. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, public transit employees have continued to work, getting other essential workers to their jobs, and supporting families' trips to grocery stores, healthcare facilities, and other essential services. Two weeks ago, the nation's largest transit agencies called for \$32-36 billion¹ in emergency relief and the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) requested at least \$32 billion² in funding. Over 160 organizations nationwide have endorsed this level of support³.

The COVID-19 pandemic's impact on transit agencies was recognized quickly when ridership and farebox revenue declined precipitously while cleaning and other operational costs increased at the same time. In response, Congress took action to support public transit agencies by providing \$25 billion in immediate emergency relief in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). In May, the House again took action by passing the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (HEROES Act), which recognized that more assistance would be needed.

¹ Wanek-Libman, Mischa - *Group of transit agencies call on Congress to provide up to \$36 billion in additional emergency funding*, July 15, 2020.

<https://www.masstransitmag.com/management/article/21146230/group-of-transit-agencies-call-on-congress-to-provide-up-to-36-billion-in-additional-emergency-funding>


² APTA Letter - *APTA Letter to Congressional Leaders on COVID-19 Emergency Response & Recovery Funding*, July 14, 2020. <https://apta.com/advocacy-legislation-policy/testimony-letters/letters/apta-ltr-to-congressional-leaders-on-covid-19-emergency-response-recovery-funding/>

³ Fortunati, Jenna - *Over 160 sign letter in support of \$32 billion for transit, but the fight isn't over*, May 20, 2020. <http://t4america.org/2020/05/20/over-160-sign-letter-in-support-of-32-billion-for-transit-but-the-fight-isnt-over/>

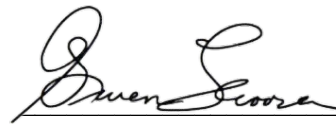
Unfortunately, due to the continued spread of COVID-19 throughout parts of the country, jurisdictions have been forced to extend stay-at-home orders and slow or reverse phased reopenings in order to protect the public's health. As a result, the financial outlook for public transportation agencies has worsened. Farebox revenues remain low, and other revenue sources like local sales tax/taxes have declined more than anyone predicted. Many transit agencies will exhaust their CARES Act funds before the end of the year, and any additional reduction or disruption in service must be avoided. Public transit agencies are essential to our economic recovery and play a vital role in transporting millions back to work and school. Federal investment is critical to sustaining the financial viability of our country's transit systems.

The needs of our public transit agencies are urgent. We therefore urge you to provide swift assistance to transit agencies and strongly support the APTA's request of at least \$32 billion in emergency relief to maintain operation through 2021. Maintaining the vital operation of our nation's transit systems will keep our frontline transit workers on the job, continue providing other frontline essential workers needed access to and from work, and sustain our economic recovery.

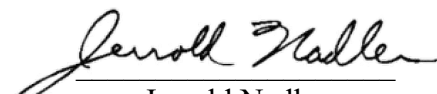
Sincerely,



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress

**ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS**

Ayanna Pressley	Zoe Lofgren	David Trone
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Joaquin Castro	Anthony G. Brown	Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
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Doris Matsui	Sharice L. Davids	William R. Keating
Danny K. Davis	Bonnie Watson Coleman	Hakeem Jeffries
Rashida Tlaib	Adriano Espaillat	Frank Pallone, Jr.
Eleanor Holmes Norton	Suzanne Bonamici	Marcia L. Fudge
Grace F. Napolitano	Stephen Lynch	Albio Sires
Yvette D. Clarke	Seth Moulton	Mikie Sherrill
Joseph P. Kennedy, III	Denny Heck	Ann Kirkpatrick
Alcee L. Hastings	Ed Case	Debbie Dingell
Adam Smith	Conor Lamb	Robin L. Kelly
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Max Rose	Thomas R. Suozzi	Donald Norcross
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	José E. Serrano	