

**CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE**

STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA  
95814

June 3, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
Senate President pro Tempore  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon  
Speaker of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**COVID-19 Transit Statutory Relief – Budget Action**

Governor Newsom, President pro Tem Atkins, and Speaker Rendon:

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed untold strain on transit agencies as they struggle to provide core service to essential workers against the backdrop of catastrophic declines in revenues and the staggering costs of front-line efforts, designed to maintain the health of transit operators and riders.

We, the undersigned members, understand these challenges and express grave concerns about the environmental, economic and equity implications of consenting, through inadequate action, to the further erosion of public transit during the current crisis. We know these are concerns you share and we, therefore, request that you support our efforts to immediately enact, through the June budget, a series of statutory relief measures to:

- Institute a two-year hold harmless provision for the calculation and allocation of the individual transit agency factors the State Controller makes to allocate 50% of revenues flowing through the State Transit Assistance Program, the STA-based State of Good Repair Program and the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program, all programs that rely on calculations of “Local Revenue” earned by transit operators;
- Temporarily create more flexibility in the use of Low Carbon Transit Operations Program and STA-based State of Good Repair Program funds; and,

- Temporarily eliminate counterproductive financial penalties for non-compliance with transit funding efficiency measures in the Transportation Development Act and the State Transit Assistance Program.


These measures, identified by the California Transit Association in their letter entitled “*Statutory and Administrative/Regulatory Relief Measures to Support Transit Agencies,*” dated April 7, represent the transit industry’s best thinking for supporting transit agencies in the short-term, while conversations about supplemental funding continue at the state- and federal-level. If these measures were enacted, transit agencies would be permitted to apply funding from existing, but statutorily narrow, programs toward safety measures, personal protective equipment, and preserving operational service levels. Additionally, transit agencies would be able to proceed with, or maintain, safety measures – like temporarily waiving passenger fares to limit interaction between transit vehicle operators and riders – which would otherwise lead to financial penalties under current law.


The uniqueness of today’s crisis and its unparalleled impacts on transit agencies requires that, as a state, we explore novel solutions to supporting transit agencies’ short-term needs and long-term viability. Enacting these measures immediately would allow transit agencies to focus on their core function of moving Californians safely while they regain their financial and operational footing.

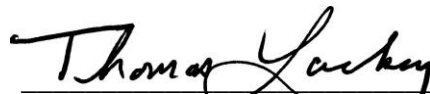
We, again, urge you to support our efforts to enact these commonsense measures.


Sincerely,

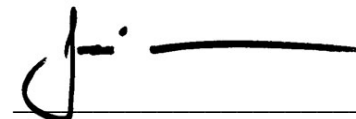
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Jim Beall  
District 15


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Richard Bloom  
District 50


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember David Chiu  
District 17

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Tom Lackey  
District 36

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Susan Talamantes  
Eggman, District 13

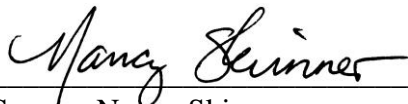
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Jose Medina  
District 61

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Jerry Hill  
District 13

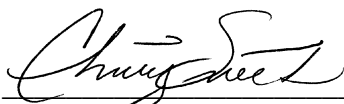
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Kevin Mullin  
District 22



Assemblymember Robert Rivas  
District 30



Senator Nancy Skinner  
District 9



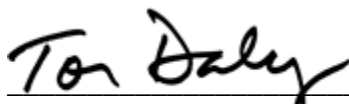
Assemblymember Christy Smith  
District 38



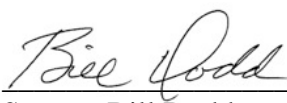
Assemblymember Mark Stone  
District 29



Assemblymember Marc Berman  
District 24



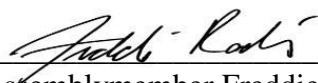
Assemblymember Tom Daly  
District 69



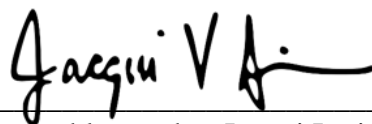
Senator Bill Dodd  
District 3



Assemblymember Todd Gloria  
District 78



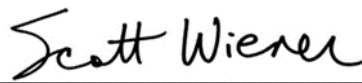
Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez  
District 52



Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin  
District 44



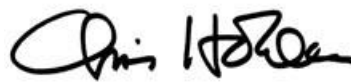
Assemblymember Bill Quirk  
District 20



Senator Scott Wiener  
District 11



Assemblymember Blanca Rubio  
District 48



Assemblymember Chris Holden  
District 41



Senator Patricia Bates  
District 36




Assemblymember Jim Patterson  
District 23




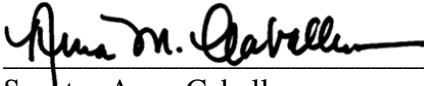
Assemblymember Ken Cooley  
District 8

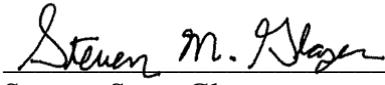


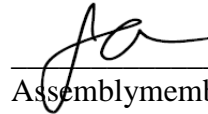
Assemblymember William Brough  
District 73

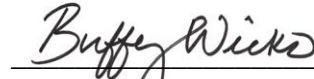
  
Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva  
District 65

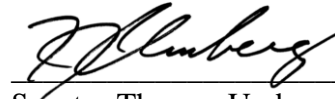
  
Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez  
District 80

  
Senator Anna Caballero  
District 12

  
Senator Steve Glazer  
District 7

  
Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula  
District 31

  
Assemblymember Buffy Wicks  
District 15

  
Senator Thomas Umberg  
District 34