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September 22, 2020

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

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

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

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the member agencies in the California Transit Association and the millions of Californians who continue to rely on public transportation right now, I thank you again for providing emergency funding for public transit agencies in the Coronavirus Aid, Resources, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

As you know well, since the passage of that critical funding bill, public transit agencies nationwide have continued to face COVID-19 pandemic-induced revenue declines that threaten their short- and long-term solvency. To remain viable, transit agencies require additional emergency federal funding and a clear commitment to reauthorization and long-term funding of core federal funding programs. This will prevent significant and permanent reductions in transit services that will adversely impact communities throughout the state and which are becoming all too likely at transit agencies operating in rural, suburban and urban contexts.

We, therefore, join transportation stakeholders from across the country in urging you to pass legislation before September 30 to provide:

1) A one-year extension of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act that includes increased investment levels, funding to restore solvency to the Highway Trust Fund, and a suspension of the Rostenkowski test;

2) \$32 billion in emergency funding for the nation's public transit agencies, inclusive of no less than \$3.1 billion for California's transit agencies; and,

3) A continuing resolution to fund surface transportation programs through December 2020.

With your leadership to pass legislation that addresses these priorities, California's public transit agencies will be able to continue to provide critical transportation options to the millions of healthcare, public safety, grocery store, and restaurant workers classified as essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please also consider that reliable – and additional – funding to ensure transit agencies can continue to provide safe and accessible service is critical to a balanced economic recovery, to our quality of life and to achieving our state's ambitious environmental goals.

Again, without this critical funding, transit agencies will have to take steps to further curtail service, delay critical capital projects and halt procurements that will result in lasting impacts to communities across California, but also to manufacturers and part suppliers nationwide.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact me at 323-594-6342. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Pimentel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Pimentel
Deputy Executive Director

cc: Congressional Delegation, State of California
The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California
Senate Appropriations Committee
House Appropriations Committee
Senate Finance Committee
House Ways & Means Committee
Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee