



February 2, 2021

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

### **Re: Continued COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization for Frontline Transit Workers**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Los Angeles and Orange County coalition of transit operators would like to register our region's concerns with the State's shift to an age-based vaccine distribution plan. This plan eliminates prioritization for transportation and logistics workers who were previously assigned to Phase 1B, Tier 2, and we respectfully urge you to consider restoring priority for these workers alongside other frontline employees in Phase 1B. LA and Orange County stands with the California Transit Association and other agencies around the state in making this request on behalf of our employees.

Combined, our transit systems serve 10 million people in Los Angeles County and 3 million people in Orange County, and we have continued to transport hundreds of thousands of people daily throughout the pandemic. Our fixed-route and paratransit services are a lifeline to essential workers, seniors, people with disabilities, and other riders who are primarily low-income and people of color. Much like the healthcare, food and agriculture, emergency services, and education workers prioritized in Phase 1B Tier 1, these transportation workers interact with the public in a manner that places them at high risk of occupational exposure.

As we look to the next phase of this crisis, we must consider not only how to protect our employees and current riders, but also those who will be returning to our system soon. Our system transports students to and from both K-12 and postsecondary schools, and we are eager to welcome these students and other riders back on board as job sectors begin to reopen. COVID-19 has caused operator shortages that prohibit agencies from currently increasing much-needed service. Including transit workers on the same Phase 1B priority list as education workers ensures that both the operators and riders are better protected from the moment they leave home every day.

LA and Orange County Transportation Agencies – Letter to Governor Newsom  
COVID Vaccine for frontline transit employees  
February 2, 2021

Our agencies stand ready to coordinate with the LA County Department of Public Health and Orange County Health Care Agency to distribute vaccines as soon as they become available. In addition, our transit systems will be critical to assist in providing access to vaccinations for populations that have mobility challenges. We recognize that decisions around vaccine distribution are difficult and that they are made with the understanding that supply is currently limited. However, we respectfully urge you and your administration to reconsider prioritizing frontline transit employees by either preserving the previous sector-based tiers, or by elevating transportation workers to the current priority list that includes individuals over 65, as well as other frontline workers in healthcare, agriculture, emergency services, and education.

Sincerely,



Macy Neshati,  
Executive Director/CEO,  
Antelope Valley Transit  
Authority



Chau L. Vu,  
Director of Public Works,  
City of Bell Gardens



Martha D'Andrea,  
Transit Manager,  
City of Glendale (Beeline)



Joyce Rooney,  
Transit Manager,  
Beach Cities Transit



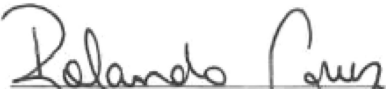
Claude McFerguson,  
Director of Transportation,  
City of Commerce



Adam Raymond,  
City Manager,  
City of Glendora



Dominic Lazzaretto,  
City Manager,  
City of Arcadia



Rolando Cruz,  
Chief Transportation Officer,  
City of Culver City (Culver  
CityBus)



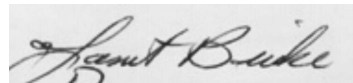
Seleta Reynolds,  
General Manager,  
Los Angeles Department of  
Transportation



Miki Carpenter,  
Director, Community  
Resources,  
City of Azusa



Sarah Zadok,  
Transportation Operations  
Manager,  
City of El Monte




Jan Buike,  
Recreation Manager,  
City of Manhattan Beach

LA and Orange County Transportation Agencies – Letter to Governor Newsom  
COVID Vaccine for frontline transit employees  
February 2, 2021



Steve Mermell,  
City Manager,  
City of Pasadena



Doran J. Barnes,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Foothill Transit



Jim Parker,  
Executive Director of  
Regional Transportation,  
Norwalk Transit System



Edward F. King,  
Director of Transit Services,  
City of Santa Monica (Big  
Blue Bus)



Ernie Crespo,  
Director of Transportation,  
Gardena Transit (GTrans)



Darrell Johnson,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Orange County  
Transportation Authority



Brian Saeki,  
City Manager,  
City of Whittier



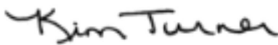
Kenneth A. McDonald,  
President and CEO,  
Long Beach Transit



Phillip A. Washington,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation  
Authority



George Sparks,  
Administrator,  
Pomona Valley  
Transportation Authority



Kim Turner,  
Director,  
Torrance Transit System

cc.

Members, Los Angeles County and Orange County State Senate and Assembly  
Delegation

Secretary David Kim, Cal-STA

Fesia Davenport, CEO, Los Angeles County

Frank Kim, CEO, County of Orange

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Orange County Health Care Agency