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February 5, 2021

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

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

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

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

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

On behalf of the member agencies of the California Transit Association and the millions of Californians who still rely on public transportation today, I thank you for your steadfast support of our industry throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Through two rounds of emergency funding relief, you have preserved critical transit service, prevented workforce layoffs, and maintained an expansive transit network that will be critical to our nation's recovery. While we remain appreciative of the relief you have provided to-date, I write to you today to communicate that California transit agencies require still additional emergency funding to continue operations this calendar year and to weather the lasting impacts of the pandemic on transit operating budgets.

We, of course, applaud President Biden for acknowledging this remaining near-term need and for including \$20 billion for our industry in his relief framework. However, given the duration of the pandemic and its expected long-term impacts, we respectfully urge you to act immediately to support our industry over the longer term by providing \$39.3 billion to transit agencies nationwide, as requested by the American Public Transportation Association and transit labor organizations across the country.

Importantly, as you work to finalize the next round of emergency relief funding, we urge you to ensure that California receives *at least* its historic share of federal transit funding and to provide relief to transit agencies of all sizes, operating in urban, suburban and rural contexts.

As you know well, the severity of the pandemic has continued to present transit agencies with near-term budgetary challenges that threaten the provision of transit service and the

maintenance of our workforce. With the additional emergency funding we are requesting today, California's public transit agencies will have the funding they need to continue to provide critical mobility options to millions of essential workers, low-income people, seniors, and persons with disabilities. They will also be able to play a key role in providing equitable access to testing and vaccination sites across our state. If additional emergency funding is not forthcoming, the brunt of the service cuts will be borne disproportionately by these same communities.

Unfortunately, we know that, even when the severity of the public health crisis lessens, transit agencies will continue to experience depressed transit ridership and tax revenues as well as persistently high costs for providing personal protective equipment to our frontline workers and maintaining the enhanced cleaning/disinfecting protocols the public expects. The emergency funding need identified by the American Public Transportation Association reflects the budget impacts of these conditions and measures, as estimated through 2023, and seeks to establish funding certainty to better allow transit agencies to navigate the crisis. Addressing this funding need would also ensure that transit agencies can continue to make progress on implementing the safety measures and operational improvements that will allow us to build back better from the pandemic, as called for by the President.

Again, we greatly appreciate the actions you took last year to secure funding for transit agencies and your efforts to secure additional emergency funding for transit agencies today. This funding is critical to a balanced and equitable economic recovery, to our quality of life and to achieving our state's ambitious environmental goals.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact me at 916-446-4656 x1034. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael Pimentel
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President, United States of America
California Congressional Delegation
The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, Chair, Senate Transportation Committee, California State Senate
The Honorable Laura Friedman, Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee, California State Assembly
David Kim, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency, State of California
Members, Executive Committee, California Transit Association
Members, Federal Legislative Committee, California Transit Association
Members, COVID-19 Transit Crisis Relief Task Force, California Transit Association