



November 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

On behalf of the undersigned Bay Area public transportation operators and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, we are writing to thank you again for your continued advocacy on behalf of public transit in the ongoing COVID-19 relief negotiations and update you on our urgent funding needs. We strongly support the \$32 billion included in the updated HEROES Act, which would provide the Bay Area with an additional \$1.2 billion in formula funding, plus the opportunity to apply for other emergency relief funds. These resources are critical to avoiding painful layoffs and service reductions that the region's operators have either already approved, but have yet to take effect, or are in the midst of discussing, the most immediate being the layoff of 146 staff that are scheduled to take effect at the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District in early January. While transit ridership is starting to grow, reaching about 25 percent of normal in September, fare revenue is still down about 90 percent, resulting in a loss of over \$100 million/month compared to pre-COVID levels.

Meanwhile, the Bay Area's transit operators are continuing to connect nurses, social service workers and grocery store employees to their jobs so they can carry out critical functions and connect residents without cars to essential services. While this is the essential role that transit plays today, it will also play a critical part of the Bay Area's recovery, ensuring that our highways don't end up in gridlock once we reach the other side of the pandemic. Already, Bay Bridge traffic is back to 85 percent of normal. When offices reopen across the region, enticing commuters back to transit will be critical to keeping our roadways moving and our tailpipe emissions in check.

Without additional funding from Congress, the deeper service cuts and layoffs that were avoided by the CARES Act will be inevitable and risk long-term damage to our region's ability to meet our mobility, social equity and climate goals. We are so grateful for your steadfast support during this national crisis and respectfully ask that you continue to ensure that transit is included in any COVID-relief package. If we can answer any questions or be of assistance in any way, please contact MTC's Manager of Government Relations, Rebecca Long (rlong@bayareametro.gov or 510-504-7914).

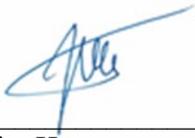
Sincerely,

Alix A. Bockelman
Deputy Executive Director, MTC

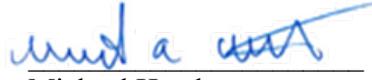
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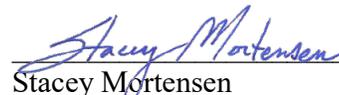
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