



# California Legislature

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

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

Dear Governor Newsom, President pro Tempore Atkins, and Speaker Rendon:

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, transit agencies statewide have faced significant revenue shortfalls and new operating costs that threaten the provision of transit service to essential workers, low-income individuals, and communities of color. Unfortunately, despite two rounds of federal emergency funding relief, California transit agencies are still struggling, requiring an additional round of emergency funding as well as the continuation of various state statutory relief measures to continue operations.

We, the undersigned members, understand the challenges faced by our local transit agencies and express grave concerns about the environmental, economic, mobility and equity implications of allowing public transit to further erode during today's crisis. We know these are concerns you share and we, therefore, request that you support our efforts to immediately enact, through the state budget, a series of statutory relief measures to:

- Create more flexibility in the use of Low Carbon Transit Operations Program funds and continue flexibility in the use of State Transit Assistance – State of Good Repair Program funds;
- Extend the hold harmless provision for calculation and allocation of State Transit Assistance Program, STA-State of Good Repair and Low Carbon Transit Operations Program allocations (Local Revenue Basis Only);

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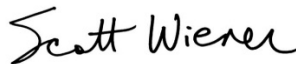
- Extend the suspension of counterproductive financial penalties for non-compliance with transit funding efficiency measures in the Transportation Development Act and State Transit Assistance Program; and,
- Temporarily suspend the performance audit requirements in the Transportation Development Act.

These measures, which are being pursued by the California Transit Association and that closely align with proposals included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget, would expand on the statutory relief measures we secured together in AB 90 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 17, Statutes of 2020) and AB 107 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 264, Statutes of 2020) and would further support transit agencies in the short-term while the industry continues to pursue emergency funding relief. If these measures are enacted, transit agencies would be permitted to direct funding from existing programs toward preserving transit service levels. Additionally, these measures would shield transit agencies from the financial penalties associated with non-compliance with efficiency requirements in current law, as well as the requirement to complete performance audits at a time when the efficiency of transit is undermined by the pandemic.

The uniqueness and severity 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. If, ultimately, the federal government does not act on an additional round of emergency relief, we will want to discuss how the state can provide the funding support.

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

Sincerely,



**Scott Wiener**  
Senator, 11<sup>th</sup> District



**Rob Rivas**  
Assemblymember, 30<sup>th</sup> District



**Freddie Rodriguez**  
Assemblymember, 52<sup>nd</sup> District



**Kevin Mullin**  
Assemblymember, 22<sup>nd</sup> District



**Marc Berman**  
Assemblymember, 24<sup>th</sup> District

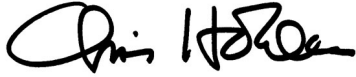


**David Chiu**  
Assemblymember, 17<sup>th</sup> District

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**Lorena Gonzalez**  
Assemblymember, 80<sup>th</sup> District



**Chris Holden**  
Assemblymember, 41<sup>st</sup> District



**Josh Newman**  
Senator, 29<sup>th</sup> District



**Monique Limón**  
Senator, 19<sup>th</sup> District



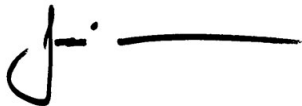
**Mark Stone**  
Assemblymember, 29<sup>th</sup> District



**Dave Min**  
Senator, 37<sup>th</sup> District



**Laurie Davies**  
Assemblymember, 73<sup>rd</sup> District



**Jose Medina**  
Assemblymember, 61<sup>st</sup> District




**Cottie Petrie-Norris**  
Assemblymember, 74<sup>th</sup> District



**Ken Cooley**  
Assemblymember, 8<sup>th</sup> District



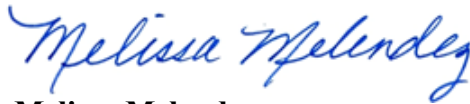
**Jim Patterson**  
Assemblymember, 23<sup>rd</sup> District



**Patricia Bates**  
Senator, 36<sup>th</sup> District



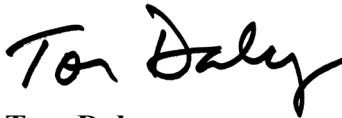
**Janet Nguyen**  
Assemblymember, 72<sup>nd</sup> District



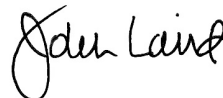
**Melissa Melendez**  
Senator, 28<sup>th</sup> District



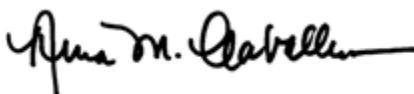
**Ben Allen**  
Senator, 26<sup>th</sup> District



**Tom Daly**  
Assemblymember, 69<sup>th</sup> District



**John Laird**  
Senator, 17<sup>th</sup> District



**Anna Caballero**  
Senator, 12<sup>th</sup> District

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**Eduardo Garcia**  
Assemblymember, 56<sup>th</sup> District



**Carlos Villapudua**  
Assemblymember, 13<sup>th</sup> District



**Patrick O'Donnell**  
Assemblymember, 70<sup>th</sup> District



**Thurston "Smitty" Smith**  
Assemblymember, 33<sup>rd</sup> District



**Sabrina Cervantes**  
Assemblymember, 60<sup>th</sup> District



**Josh Becker**  
Senator, 13<sup>th</sup> District



**Dave Cortese**  
Senator, 15<sup>th</sup> District



**Kevin McCarty**  
Assemblymember, 7<sup>th</sup> District