



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza,
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

Phillip A. Washington
Chief Executive Officer
213.922.7555 Tel
213.922.7447 Fax
washingtonp@metro.net

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RE: SUPPORT FOR SCAG STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2021 (CRRSAA) INTER-COUNTY APPORTIONMENTS – REGIONAL COUNCIL ITEM #7

Dear Los Angeles County Transit Stakeholder:

On Thursday, March 4th the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Council will be acting on the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) inter-county apportionments. On behalf of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board of Directors, I strongly encourage your agency's support for the SCAG staff recommendation for the CRRSAA inter-county apportionments as it is fair, transparent, and implements the intent of CRRSAA to address the fiscal impacts to transit agencies related to the response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The CRRSAA funding allocations are much needed for transit operators and agencies in Los Angeles County to continue to respond to and offset the impacts of COVID-19. Collectively, Metro and other transit operators in Los Angeles County have spent and received reimbursement from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for over 98% of our region's share of the original Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act inter-county funding allocations from SCAG. Consistent with the federal process for apportioning CRRSAA funds to each Urbanized Area (UZA) the SCAG staff recommendation reflects the operating expenses in each county and the total resources apportioned to each county as a result of both federal transit stimulus relief acts. This methodology appropriately directs CRRSAA funding to the demonstrated need for transit operating assistance in Los Angeles County compared to other counties in the SCAG region. The alternative proportionate allocation would result in a **loss of \$127 million to Los Angeles County transit operators** that generated the CRRSAA funds for the UZA and desperately need these additional funds to maintain critical transit services to Los Angeles County's 10 million residents.

Metro and other transit operators in Los Angeles County are ready to obligate, spend and seek reimbursement for eligible operating expenses from the CRRSAA funds. The demonstrated need for additional transit operating assistance also positions Los Angeles County along with the entire Los Angeles- Long Beach- Anaheim UZA for additional federal COVID-19 relief funding from the \$30 billion that Congress is considering approving to support transit operations. Thank you for your efforts to support ongoing transit operations in Los Angeles County and for your leadership in securing the needed funding resources to do so through the SCAG CRRSAA inter-county apportionment process.

Respectfully yours,

Phillip A. Washington
Chief Executive Officer