



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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March 1, 2021

Kome Ajise
Executive Director
Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

**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 Mr. Ajise:

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board of Directors, I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) staff recommendation for the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) inter-county apportionments. Metro supports SCAG's inter-county funding allocation methodology 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

Mr. Kome Ajise
March 2, 2021
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support transit operations. Thank you for your continued partnership with Los Angeles County and for the leadership and professionalism exhibited by you and your staff in working through the CRRSAA inter-county apportionment process.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip A. Washington". The signature is stylized with large, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Phillip A. Washington
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Rex Richardson, Regional Council President