



**Metro**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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March 24, 2020

Hon. Gavin Newsom  
Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Hon. Anthony Rendon  
Speaker of the Assembly  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Hon. Toni Atkins  
President Pro Tempore  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), I am writing to formally thank you for your leadership in encouraging the Federal Government to provide relief funding for the state of California and to urge the State of California to provide support to California's public transit agencies. Public transportation agencies continue to operate and provide life-line services for first responders and those providing key and essential services during the COVID-19 crisis. We support the California Transit Association's request that the Legislature appropriate \$1 billion to transit agencies statewide as an initial infusion of funds to help with immediate needs. We urge the state to act quickly to address the public transportation impacts that are felt in the State of California in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

Metro is the state's largest public transportation agency. We serve as transportation planner and coordinator, designer, builder and operator for one of the country's largest, most populous counties. More than 10 million people – nearly one-third of California's residents – live, work and play within our 1,433-square-mile service area. Metro's role in moving over 1.3 million people daily contributes to the economic vitality of our region – which helps drive the state's economy. Because Metro is a critical entity for southern California's health, business and civic infrastructure - we are committed to continuing our operations to ensure that public transportation remains available for first-responders, healthcare workers and other key members of the workforce who need to move across Los Angeles County.

The most significant financial damage being incurred by our agency is a result of the drop in economic activity due to social distancing to mitigate the spread of the virus. Metro is funded in large part by local sales tax revenues – the agency is reliant on sales tax revenues to achieve long-term capital and daily operational demands. According to our Office of Management and Budget, our agency may endure a potential loss of at least \$700 million in state and local sales tax losses over the coming year. This funding shortfall would have an acute impact on our ability to maintain our transit operations, meet capital infrastructure demands that support public transit and state highway assets and would also be detrimental to our agency's overall financial standing.

Due to the precautions necessary to curb the growth of COVID-19 through the County of Los Angeles and state of California, Metro will be facing significant month-over-month losses based on dramatic ridership declines. As an example of the impact of COVID-19 on our transit system, our weekday boardings on our bus and rail network have declined by 75 percent as of the date of this correspondence. This precipitous decline in ridership will take time to restore to pre-COVID-19 ridership levels – which constituted 1.3 million bus and rail boardings during weekdays. As additional state and countywide restrictions come in effect encouraging residents to shelter in place – ridership will continue to decline dramatically and our ability to continue to operate, secure and maintain the transportation



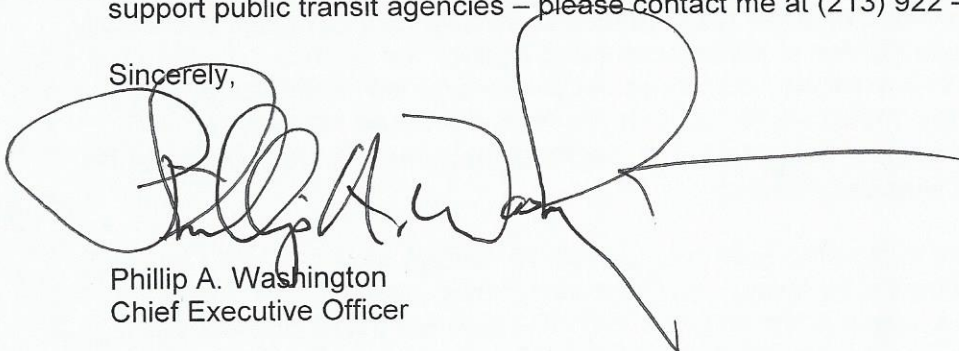
system will be severely impacted. The need to operate and maintain the public transit system to support essential sector employees, emergency response and front-line healthcare workers remains imminent.

Metro has updated the staff training and operations protocol to protect and serve thousands of employees and patrons. Metro has also strengthened the cleaning regimen of our fleet of over 2,300 transit vehicles and over 90 publicly accessible rail stations to serve the public and respond to local, state and federal public health directives. As the situation continues, we continue to incur serious costs for supplies in order to sustain this regimen. We expect that our additional labor costs would remain constant unless cleaning regimes need to be further increased – in which case our labor costs would escalate accordingly.

Metro has been and will continue to be proactive in responding to the COVID-19 crisis and has formed a Contagious Virus Response Task Force that is closely coordinating with the L.A. County Department of Public Health, the California Office of Emergency Services, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure an appropriate response to the coronavirus. Our agency has strengthened cleaning at Los Angeles' Union Station (which serves as a major transfer station for over 100,000 customers travelling on Metro, Amtrak, Metrolink, Greyhound, LADOT and other municipal bus operators daily) and our other major transit hubs throughout Los Angeles County. This includes an elevated focus on cleaning high touch point areas such as handrails, elevator call buttons, and ticket vending machines. Metro also continues to clean buses and trains at least once daily with EPA-approved disinfectants. We continue to review our agency's cleaning, staff response and operations protocols to ensure that they are updated as the current situation evolves daily. In addition, Metro is producing public information outreach materials, signage, web-based and written content on what customers can do, while riding the Metro system on their way to essential activities, work duties or to care for loved ones, to reduce the risk of being exposed to the virus.

Thank you in advance for your exceptional public service during this COVID-19 worldwide, national and state emergency. We appreciate the steps already taken by the State Legislature and Governor to request federal aid to help all Californians stay healthy and safe during this crisis. Metro, as the largest public transit service provider and one of the largest employers in Los Angeles County, will continue to provide lifeline service and support to the essential personnel and residents of Los Angeles County under the guidance of state, local and national public health and emergency directives. If you or your staff would like to discuss this letter or Metro's support of CTA's request for emergency state funding to support public transit agencies – please contact me at (213) 922 – 7555.

Sincerely,



Phillip A. Washington  
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Metro Board of Directors  
Los Angeles County State Legislative Delegation  
David Kim, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency