

AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT | 2020



THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION (APTA)

is the only non-profit association in North America that represents all modes of public transportation, including bus, paratransit, light rail, commuter rail, heavy rail, intercity and high-speed passenger rail, and waterborne services.

Our members are involved in every element of the industry—from planning, designing, financing, constructing, and operating transit systems to the research, development, manufacture, and maintenance of vehicles, equipment, and transit-related products and services. Additionally, academic institutions, transportation network companies, transit associations, and state departments of transportation are APTA members.

This Annual Report describes APTA's major accomplishments, activities, and initiatives from October 2019 through October 2020.

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01 | MESSAGE FROM **THE CHAIR**



DEAR MEMBERS OF THE APTA COMMUNITY,

When I became APTA Chair in October 2019, no one could have imagined the challenges our association and industry would face over the next 12 months.

APTA was about to embark on a fresh strategic plan that embraced transformational changes being driven by technology, demographics, and new mobility services. Little did we know just how transformational 2020 would be.

Four months into my tenure, the nation was confronted by a triple threat: a once-in-a-century pandemic, an economic shock rivaling the Great Depression, and an overdue reckoning on racial and social inequity.

APTA acted quickly to define new priorities. We focused on supporting public transit's front-line workers and helping agencies maintain critical services. As Chair, I reached out to organizations with whom we needed to work most closely, including the U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, and state transportation associations. To ensure we spoke with a strong, single voice, I established the Mobility Recovery and Restoration Task Force, which created new resources for our industry, a health and safety program to keep transit users and employees safe, and recommendations for post-pandemic mobility.

I am honored and grateful that the Board extended my role for a second year, giving me the opportunity to complete our pandemic response and resume the agenda I outlined last October. Building a stronger and more dynamic future for public transportation will require hard work. Considering what we achieved this year, I know we are more than up to the challenges ahead.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nuria I. Fernandez".

Nuria I. Fernandez
APTA Chair
General Manager & CEO, Santa Clara Valley
Transportation Authority

02 | MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO



DEAR APTA MEMBERS, COLLEAGUES, AND FRIENDS,

For most of the 12-month period covered by this Annual Report, our nation and our industry have been dealing with unprecedented challenges. The confluence of crises forced us to re-examine public transportation's responsibilities in today's changing society – and by extension, APTA's role in times of upheaval.

As people and organizations changed the way they travel, work, and live, APTA's duty was to adapt—to turn adversity into achievement—and discover new methods to support public transportation agencies and the millions of people who rely on them every day.

APTA led a successful effort to secure \$25 billion in emergency federal funding for our industry, created new daily content for our members, produced 45 webinars (32 of which pertained to the pandemic) that reached more than 20,000 people, changed in-person conferences into virtual events, won a one-year extension of the FAST Act, and commissioned a global study showing there is no direct connection between public transit and the spread of COVID-19.

Public transit employees showed the world that they are essential, while transit agencies focused on service and survival, innovation, and courage.

Our industry has a long history of reinventing itself and of re-emerging stronger from such crises as the 1918 pandemic, the Great Depression, and the recurrence of social upheavals. We have been tested again this past year. Staying united as an industry and staying dedicated to a common good will carry us through this uncertain time and bring us to a stronger place.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul P. Skoutelas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul P. Skoutelas
President and CEO

ADAPTATION AND ACHIEVEMENT IN A YEAR OF ADVERSITY

During the past year, millions of people gained a new respect and appreciation for public transportation.

Many were individuals who depend on transit daily to reach a job, grocery store or doctor's office. Others rarely rode a bus, train, or streetcar. Yet, in a crisis, when easy access to mobility could no longer be taken for granted, the nation saw public transportation in a new way:

Flexible. Innovative. Essential.

77%

of Americans support emergency funding for public transit.

74%

of Americans want the federal government to invest in fixing and modernizing public transportation infrastructure.

Across our nation, in large and small communities, from urban centers to suburban towns, public transit agencies and their employees stepped up. They repurposed limited resources, redefined priorities, and redesigned services to meet new demands.

They also demonstrated remarkable self-sacrifice in serving the public—by carrying workers to vital jobs, patients to life-saving medical treatments, and meals and necessities to those most in need. Several agencies even used their buses to provide WiFi hotspots in disadvantaged neighborhoods so that school children would have access to online learning.

Our transit systems became the backbone of survival; our transit workers became heroes moving heroes.

It can be tempting to define our experiences as pre- or post-pandemic. One might even regard the extraordinary contributions of public transportation simply as good people doing good deeds during bad times. Yet, such an assessment is woefully incomplete.

What made public transit **flexible, innovative, and essential** during these difficult times is what has always kept public transit on the job *every day*: our commitment to continuous improvement... a passion to make opportunities accessible to all... and an optimism for improving the quality of life through mobility.

The following pages describe APTA's proud role in supporting the transit workers, agencies, and businesses with whom we share that commitment, passion, and optimism.

In good and in challenging times.



APTA Officers and CEO (L to R): Freddie C. Fuller II, Secretary/Treasurer; Jeffrey A. Nelson, Vice Chair; Nuria I Fernandez, Chair; David M. Stackrow Sr., Immediate Past Chair; Paul P. Skoutelas, President and CEO

FROM STRATEGIC PLAN TO SEAMLESS PIVOT

When the 2019 – 2020 year began, APTA was preparing to implement its newly approved **three-year strategic plan**. Built around a fresh purpose statement—to lead public transportation in a new mobility era, advocating to connect and built thriving communities—the plan defined four priorities:

- 1) **Championing Investment and Supportive Policies**
- 2) **Leveraging New Mobility Services and Technologies**
- 3) **Developing Leaders and the Future-Ready Workforce**
- 4) **Enhancing Safety, Security, and System Resilience.**

All these goals were intended to help the public transportation industry to anticipate, understand, leverage, and meet the emerging challenges of a changing world. New technologies, different types of service providers, and evolving

demographics were driving the need for seminal transformation in mobility.

When the pandemic caused communities to severely limit travel and business and social activities, public transit agencies were hit hard. Drastic declines in ridership, cuts in local government funding, and increased costs for personal protective equipment strained transit systems nationwide.

APTA made a swift and seamless pivot. The association moved all its services online, assessed what members needed most, and went to work on developing and delivering a brand new array of resources.

Throughout the transition, APTA's four strategic goals remained relevant, providing familiar guideposts along an often daunting, unknown path. This section highlights APTA's 2019 – 2020 achievements and activities that were influenced by our strategic plan during the crisis.



APTA's Strategic Plan for 2021 – 2023



The Health & Safety Commitments Program's four required practices for both transit agencies and passengers

ADVANCING RECOVERY & RESTORATION

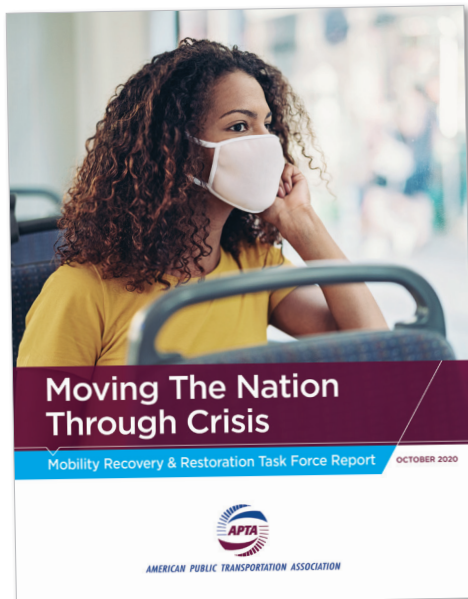
Beginning in March 2020, the outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States created major disruption to the American economy, our work, and how we live our daily lives. Public transportation—from transit agencies to manufacturers—was particularly hard hit. Revenue dropped as local funding was reduced and ridership declined by much as 90 percent in some communities.

To help transit agency maintain services, APTA led a successful effort in March 2020 to secure \$25 billion in emergency funding for our industry under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

At the same time, we needed to develop and share best practices, discuss new technologies and approaches, and learn from public transportation systems and health experts in the U.S. and throughout the world.

In April, APTA Chair Nuria I. Fernandez called for the establishment of the **Mobility Recovery & Restoration Task Force** and selected Phillip A. Washington, CEO of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro), to chair the group.

The Task Force's objective was to provide transit agencies with the knowledge and tools to maintain core functions and financial stability, win back riders' confidence, and prepare to



Report of the Mobility Recovery & Restoration Task Force



shape a post-pandemic world of new mobility needs and preferences.

After four months of careful research, public opinion surveys, and thoughtful dialogue, the 44-member group produced the following deliverables:

1. **An online “COVID-19 Resource Hub,”** arguably the world’s most comprehensive library of the timeliest official guidance, best practices, studies, and white papers – all designed to help public transit agencies respond to the pandemic.
 - Among the resources were detailed practices for cleaning and sanitizing transit facilities and vehicles, ways to reduce touchpoints and increase social distancing, and how to keep passengers, employees, and the public informed.

2. **A Health & Safety Commitments program,** a voluntary industry-wide pledge by public transportation agencies to keep transit safe by adhering to practices that passengers say would make them feel secure on buses and trains again.

- The unique program is built on the belief that health and safety is a shared responsibility—between transit systems and transit riders—doing their respective duty to keep public transportation safe. The commitments for riders and agencies are defined under four categories.

3. **A set of in-depth, future-ready priorities** for public transportation in a post-pandemic environment.

- The Task Force studied six priority issues that are critical for the future success of public transit agencies and related businesses. These range from new funding sources, new ways to measure the benefits of transit, and new strategic partners to address homelessness, racial and economic equity, and preparations for the next pandemic.

4. **Public transportation’s narrative,** telling a compelling, unified story about our industry’s essential role, in good times and in bad, in ensuring safe, healthy, vibrant communities and a national economic recovery.

The Task Force’s report summarizing its work, including research, webinars, deliverables, and findings, is available at <https://www.apta.com/covid-19-resource-hub>.

More than
60%
of transit agencies reduced or plan to reduce service, lay off transit workers, and postpone capital projects.

More than
80%
of transit-related companies have seen declines in transit business.



APTA’s Health and Safety Commitments Program is the public transportation industry’s overarching pledge to passengers that our systems are operating safely as North America recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.



APTA'S COVID-19 RESOURCE HUB

The Hub is a comprehensive collection of U.S. and international policies, practices, and guidance for keeping public transportation safe during the pandemic.

APTA created this one-of-a-kind resource to help public transit agencies identify and implement safety solutions that best suit their needs. As our industry's efforts evolve with new knowledge and changing conditions, the Hub is updated and expanded. Contents include:

- APTA's Health & Safety Commitments Program
- COVID-19 Vaccine and its Distribution
- Research Studies
- Vendors List of PPE and safety equipment suppliers
- Post COVID Priorities for Public Transit
- Report of the Mobility Recovery & Restoration Task Force
- Best Practices for:
 - Healthy Transit Personnel
 - Cleaning & Sanitizing
 - Limited Touchpoints
 - Face Coverings for Passengers
 - Social Distancing
 - Communications & Monitoring
 - Ventilation & Maintenance



Investments in public transit have delivered decades of valuable benefits to Americans many times over.

ADVOCACY & COMMUNICATIONS

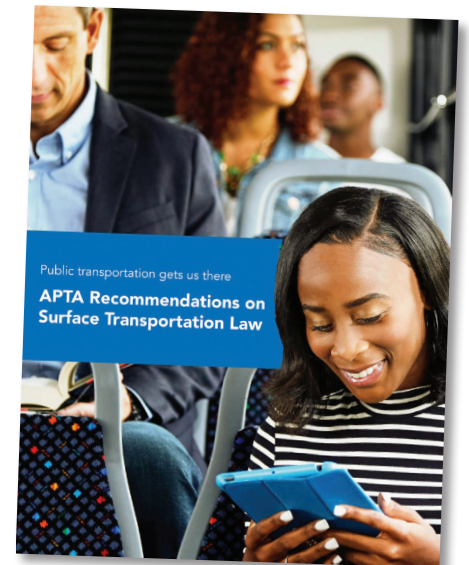
COVID-19 Emergency Relief

APTA led an aggressive campaign to win congressional approval of the CARES Act that included \$25 billion for public transit and passenger rail, including Amtrak, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. This was the largest transit appropriation in history and almost three times the fiscal year 2020 transit formula grant funding.

APTA continued to make a strong case for additional emergency COVID-19 funding—at least \$32 billion is needed—with signs that bipartisan congressional support is growing for some level of support.

Extension of the FAST Act

As a direct result of APTA's advocacy efforts, Congress enacted a one-year extension of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation, or FAST Act. This was the first time in 30 years that Congress approved a one-year extension of surface transportation programs after the lapse of a multi-year authorization act. The extension, through September 2021, provides public transit agencies with much-needed certainty about funding levels for FY 2021.



APTA's policy recommendations for the next surface transportation authorization law

Former Vice President
Joe Biden at the Presidential
Candidates Forum



PUBLIC TRANSIT BALLOT VICTORIES

In 2019, voters approved

15 of 16

ballot measures
in 8 states, for a

90%
success rate.

These results continue a 20-year trend of voters calling for more public transit in their communities—and a willingness to pay for this expansion and modernization.

Surface Transportation Authorization

In the Fall of 2019, APTA was advancing its recommendations on Capitol Hill for a new multi-year surface transportation authorization bill to succeed the FAST Act. Our members had united behind three top priorities and more than 90 specific legislative recommendations.

In support of these recommendations and additional emergency funding, APTA held its first Virtual Washington Fly-In for Business Members and Transit Board Members in May 2020. A total of 85 participants held online meetings with 141 congressional offices and 20 members of Congress.

A few weeks after the APTA Fly-In, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the “Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act” (INVEST in America Act) on July 1, making critical investments to surface transportation infrastructure, including \$105 billion for public transportation and \$60 billion for commuter rail, Amtrak, and other high-performance rail.

In addition to many of APTA’s recommendations, the INVEST in America Act included two of APTA’s major objectives: 1) \$100 billion for the state-of-good-repair backlog; and 2) funding for all projects in the Capital Investment Grant pipeline to meet growing demand. The bill also included additional emergency funding to help public transit in its fight against COVID-19.

APTA Testimony

APTA has testified, briefed, or submitted testimony to several committees in both the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate at four hearings this year. Topics included funding needs, Capital Investment Grants, state of the commuter rail industry, the CARES Act, and COVID-19 emergency relief. We also testified before the New York State Legislature.

Regulatory Relief

APTA and its members are committed to timely implementation of all federal regulations, however, the COVID-19 crisis made it impossible to meet some deadlines. We worked successfully

and collaboratively to set new, realistic dates for rulemaking processes with:

- U.S. Access Board’s ADA Accessibility Guidelines
- Federal Transit Administration
- Federal Railroad Administration
- Transportation Security Administration

Presidential Candidates Forum

In February 2020, APTA co-hosted the first-ever Presidential Candidates Forum on Infrastructure organized by the non-partisan, non-profit group United for Infrastructure. A delegation of more than 20 APTA members had front-row seats at the Las Vegas event to hear several candidates discuss how their infrastructure plans would advance public transit, grow the economy, and improve communities.

The Wall Street Journal’s Executive Washington Editor Jerry Seib and Deputy Washington Bureau Chief Jeanne Cummings moderated the forum called “Moving America Forward,” which included former Vice President Joe Biden and former Indianapolis Mayor Pete Buttigieg.

Media & Issue Advertising

APTA hosted six major media events between October 2019 and October 2020 to advocate for higher federal funding levels for transit infrastructure, Capital Investment Grants, COVID-19 relief, annual appropriations, and solvency for the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund. Each event—in-person and virtual—featured many transit agency leaders.

APTA ads appeared on high-profile platforms seen by Washington opinion leaders and decision-makers. These included *Politico’s*



Former Indianapolis Mayor Peter Buttigieg with Nuria Fernandez and Paul Skoutelas at the Presidential Candidates Forum

Morning Transportation newsletter, *The Hill’s* Transportation page, Axios’ Navigate newsletter, and *The Washington Post’s* Transportation page.

Interviews and briefings by APTA President and CEO Paul Skoutelas were covered by a variety of media outlets throughout the year, including Axios, ABC News, CNN, NPR, Bloomberg, Cheddar, CNBC, USA Today, *Politico*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *Engineering News-Record*, and *Governing* magazine. Additionally, Skoutelas had articles or op-eds published in the *Chicago Tribune*, *Automotive World*, and *The Anniston Star*.

Sound the Horn to Say “Thanks”

To honor and show appreciation to public transit workers across North America, hundreds of transit systems participated in #SoundTheHorn campaign on three separate occasions. The horns sounded on different kinds of transit vehicles at a designated time and day. The effort was spearheaded by New York MYTA, NJ TRANSIT, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, NYC Ferry, Amtrak, and other regional bus, train, and ferry systems.

APTA’s Voices for Public Transit grassroots citizens advocates grew to

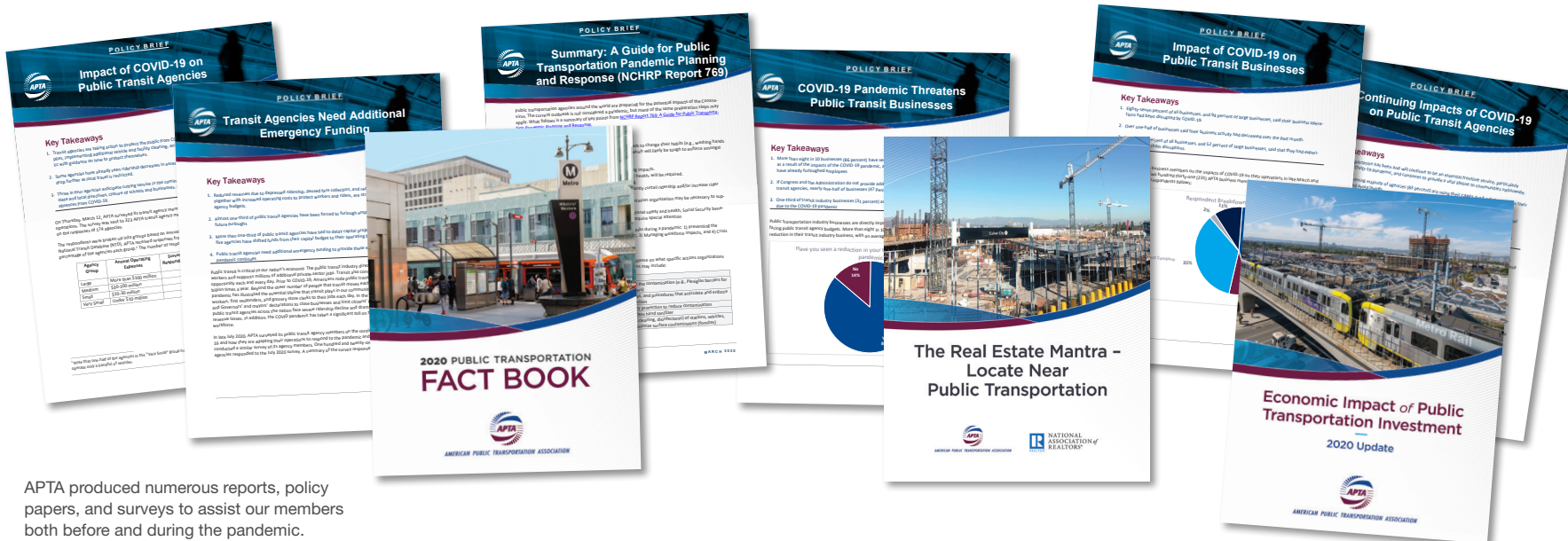
236K+

In 2020, they sent

11K+

letters

to elected officials.



APTA produced numerous reports, policy papers, and surveys to assist our members both before and during the pandemic.

RESEARCH

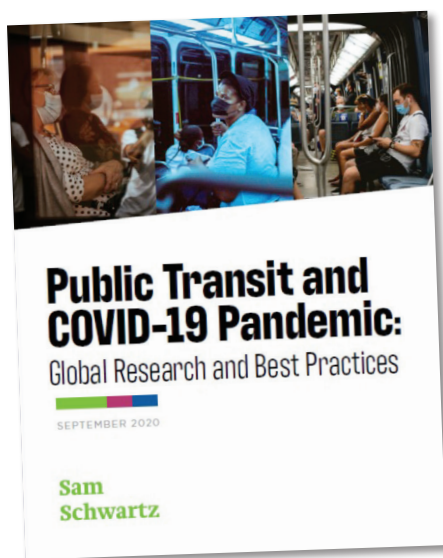
APTA Research in Response to COVID-19

- The policy research team conducted four surveys of APTA transit agency members to gauge the impacts of the pandemic on them, as well as the need for additional funding. Results were published as four policy briefs:

- COVID-19 Pandemic Threatens Public Transit Jobs and Service;
- Transit Agencies Need Additional Emergency Funding;
- Continuing Impacts of COVID-19 on Public Transit Agencies; and
- The Impact of COVID-19 on Transit Agencies.

- In addition, the team fielded two surveys of APTA business members to gauge impacts of the pandemic and the need for additional funding for the transit industry. Two policy briefs summarized the results:

- COVID-19 Pandemic Threatens Public Transit Businesses; and
- The Impact of COVID-19 on Public Transit Businesses.



Based on analyses of data from U.S. and global transit systems, the *Public Transit and COVID-19 Pandemic* report shows that using public transportation has no direct connection to the spread of the coronavirus.



PROFILE OF AN APTA FRONT LINE WORKER

TIME magazine published an article that profiled workers who put their lives at risk to help others during the pandemic. One of them was Andre Anglin, a bus operator for the Central Ohio Transit Authority in Columbus, OH.

- APTA asked an independent research firm, EBP, to prepare **The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Public Transit Funding Needs in the U.S.** The paper summarized the anticipated impact of the pandemic on public transit agency funding sources and highlighted the need for additional federal assistance.

Global Report on Public Transit and the Spread of COVID-19

Transit agencies have implemented science-based practices to safeguard riders and employees, yet early on, questions were raised about the safety of public transportation. APTA addressed these concerns head-on with a comprehensive review of U.S. and international research on COVID-19 transmission and public transit.

Based on interviews with public health experts and new data analysis from a variety of sources, **Public Transit and COVID-19 Pandemic: Global Research and Best Practices** concluded that public transit had little or no role in the spread of the disease.

The report also found that increasing automobile use in lieu of public transportation would negatively impact public health and safety due to increased emissions, and traffic injuries and deaths.

2020 Public Transportation Fact Book

The 2020 Public Transportation Fact Book is the latest authoritative source for statistical data covering all aspects of the public transportation industry in the U.S. and Canada. Major sections include an overview of U.S. transit facts, transit finances and operating statistics by modes, vehicle characteristics and deliveries, and information about federal grants and the Federal Transit Act.

Passenger Transport Celebrates ADA Anniversary

In June 2020, Passenger Transport commemorated the 30th Anniversary of enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). APTA Chair Nuria Fernandez and APTA President and CEO Paul Skoutelas joined seven APTA members in sharing their personal experiences with the law, its impact on the lives of millions of people, and public transit's role in promoting equity and access for all.



The Real Estate Mantra

This updated analysis shows that neighborhoods located within a half mile of public transit services outperformed those in areas farther from public transit based on several factors. Easy access to destinations and activities is an important factor in home-buying decisions. Businesses also are recognizing the benefits of locating near public transit to attract employees and customers, and to save on parking costs.

Economic Impact of Public Transportation Investment

This APTA report explains public transportation's impact on the economy. It shows that \$1 billion in transit investment yields 49,700 jobs, a 5-to-1 economic return, and long-term productivity gains. The report adds to APTA's Industry Footprint, which demonstrates the breadth and depth of public transportation spending and employment in all 50 states and by congressional districts.

SHARING INFORMATION IN A CRISIS

It's impossible to over-communicate in a time of crisis. At the start of the pandemic, APTA established a regular schedule of emails and online meetings, roundtables, and town halls – all designed to encourage an open exchange with and among our members. These included:

- Daily COVID-19 Bulletin
- Biweekly CEO Letter to all members
- Regularly updated FAQs
- Transit CEOs Roundtables
- Business Members Roundtables
- Town Hall meetings with Transit Board members
- Town Hall meetings on COVID-19



Above left: APTA Chair Nuria Fernandez introduces a panel discussion led by FTA Deputy Administrator K. Jane Williams at the TRANSform Conference.



Above right: APTA members and guests at opening reception of TRANSform Conference in New York City

EVENTS & CONFERENCES

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

APTA continued to collaborate with several international public transit organizations, including the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA), the International Association of Public Transport (UITP), and *Union Internationale des Chemins de fer* (UIC), the worldwide railway organization.

These working relationships helped strengthen our response to the pandemic as we shared best practices for keeping passengers safe and planning for recovery.

TRANSform – Oct. 13-16, 2019

Learning, sharing, experiencing, and networking took center stage in New York City for APTA's 2019 TRANSform, providing the latest in policy, technology, and new mobility ideas. More than 2,500 attendees heard from powerful keynote speakers and participated in creative sessions, exciting technical tours of the world's largest public transit systems, a new products and services showcase format, and unparalleled networking opportunities to broaden career relationships.

TRANSform provided the ideas, insights, and connections to help manage the changing mobility environment and shape the future of public transportation.

High Speed & Intercity Passenger Rail Policy Forum – Dec. 4, 2019

The standing-room only event titled "Building Capacity for Economic Growth" included

25 international guests from the International Union of Railroads (IUC).

Business Members Annual Meeting – Jan. 29-31, 2020

The Business Members Annual Meeting in Carlsbad, CA, brought together 115 APTA business members from across the industry for two days of discussions, a day of Business Member Board of Governors (BMBG) discussions and committee meetings.

Attendees participated in 15 sessions addressing issues of interest or concern to APTA's business members. A few session highlights: Demographic Changes Impacting Transit, Transforming How We Travel with Hyperloop, and Southern California Transit Agencies: Preview of Future Capital Programs and Projects. Attendees also raised over \$21,000 for the American Public Transportation Foundation.

Marketing & Communications

– Feb. 23-26, 2020

More than 320 attendees gathered in Orlando for APTA's 2020 Marketing & Communications Workshop. This intensive and interactive workshop focused on topics such as customer service, social media, ridership initiatives, and media relations. Additionally, the workshop featured a luncheon honoring AdWheel Award winners; the Call Center Challenge competition; technical tours of LYNX and Disney Transportation; and a keynote address from the Disney Institute.

Sustainability & Multimodal Planning Workshop – July 30-31, 2020

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Sustainability & Multimodal Planning Workshop was the first APTA program to transition to an entirely virtual format. Both the Sustainability Committee and the Multimodal Operations Planning Subcommittee, along with APTA staff, led the way to successfully reimagine the program for a virtual world. Nearly 330 people attended the Workshop, which served as the blueprint for future successful virtual conferences.

Mobility & Rail NOW! – Aug. 12-13, 2020

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to linger through the Summer, APTA hosted a unique virtual conference, Mobility & Rail NOW!, which combined select programming from the traditional Mobility and Rail Conferences along with topics geared towards the future of public transit considering the pandemic. More than 375 attendees registered for the conference, continuing APTA's growing program offerings in the virtual world.

APTAtch Conference – Sept. 9-10, 2020

The virtual APTAtch Conference continued to showcase the nexus of mobility and technology. The program attracted 402 attendees, APTA's largest virtual conference to date.



2020 APTA Award winners were recognized at a virtual celebration ceremony during the TRANScend Conference in October.

TRANScend – Oct. 21-22, 2020

TRANScend, an APTA virtual event, explored different perspectives on the biggest challenges for the year ahead. More than 400 people attended sessions on the long term impacts of COVID-19, bringing riders back, putting equity in the forefront, the changing landscape of cities, policing in a new era, and more. Keynote speakers were Tony Seba, world-renowned author, thought leader, and entrepreneur, and Eddie Glaude Jr. noted scholar on African American Culture at Princeton University. A celebration was also held in honor of the 2020 APTA Awards winners.

2019-2020 EVENTS

7 in-person events

5 virtual events

3,429 total in-person attendees

1,483 total virtual attendees

APTA'S COMMITMENT TO RACIAL EQUITY

This past year, the ongoing pandemic and the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and many others exposed visible and long-standing racial inequities in our society.

At our Town Hall meetings and APTA's 2020 TRANScend Conference, we initiated discussions on race, equity, and police reform, and their importance to public transit's future.

APTA Chair Nuria Fernandez addressed the annual meeting of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) and advanced a stronger partnership with the organization in advocating for employment diversity, inclusion, and new opportunities in the transportation industry.

Acknowledging that we can and must do more as an association and an industry, Fernandez called on the APTA Diversity and Inclusion Council to produce a report on how APTA will address racial equity as well as encourage and support similar efforts by APTA members. The comprehensive action plan will be presented to APTA's Board of Directors for adoption in early 2021.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

APTA's numerous standing committees and working groups continued to meet regularly throughout the year and held weekly and biweekly discussions during the pandemic. Transit CEOs, general managers, heads of operations, and technical experts participated through our committee structure platform, sharing critical information and exploring best practices.

Among the many issues discussed were COVID-19 defensive operational responses, new or revised rail standards, PTC implementation, bus battery deployment, regulatory relief, and updating the Standard Bus Procurement Guidelines. The technical services team also hosted several pandemic-related webinars.



Standards

APTA's Standards Program published 15 new documents and updated 22 existing standards in 2020. In addition to the nine subjects currently offered, APTA added two new areas: Technology Standards and Safety Certification. Both new content areas will begin developing documents in 2021.

PTC

This year, the commuter rail industry remained on schedule to complete full implementation of Positive Train Control (PTC) by the December 2020 deadline. As of Sept. 30, 100 percent of railroads are PTC certified by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) or awaiting its approval on submitted PTC safety plans.

New MOUs

APTA renewed or signed new Memoranda of Understandings (MOU) with the International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE) and the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) and began talks with the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA) on a similar partnership for early 2021. These agreements reflect APTA's commitment to collaborate and share expertise with technical groups of increasing importance to our members.

Peer Reviews

APTA's Peer Review Program conducted seven peer reviews during the past year, offering member transit agencies a valuable assessment and problem-solving service. To accommodate members' requests during the pandemic, we transitioned to offer virtual peer reviews that provide the same in-depth analysis and recommendations by industry experts. We also continued to offer on-site peer reviews where safe and appropriate.

Safety Audits

The APTA Safety Management Audit Program completed three safety audits before the pandemic, but suspended others as a health precaution. Many agencies have requested audits in the Spring, Summer and Fall of 2021.



Leadership APTA, Class of 2020-2021

KNOWLEDGE & CAREER DEVELOPMENT

APTAU continued to offer a range of educational and career development programs and services, particularly web-based learning via webinars, virtual town halls, and on-line courses.

APTAU eLearning Courses

APTA's eLearning *Transit Cyber Security Course for Executive Leaders*, launched at the 2019 APTA *TRANSform* conference, presented the strategies, resources, and recommended practices for executive decision-makers to combat cyber-attacks. To date, 187 APTA members have subscribed to or completed this online course.

APTAU is launching a "Learning Management System" (LMS) to accelerate and enhance APTA's ability to support online training and learning programs for members. The LMS will create a clearinghouse of easily accessible educational content and streamline APTA's ability to deliver state-of-the-art online programming; provide users with an integrated learner dashboard; and offer CEUs and other credentialing opportunities.

Leadership APTA

APTA graduated the Leadership APTA Class of 2019 during the APTA *TRANSform* Conference in New York City. Class members showcased their five capstone projects: Emerging Financial

Models; Cybersecurity; Public Transportation's impact on Quality of Life; Climate Resiliency; and Mobility through Automation & Connectivity.

The Leadership APTA's Class of 2020/2021 went on hiatus in March 2020 due to the pandemic. In lieu of its formal program, class members met for quarterly virtual workshops addressing topics including: the pandemic impact; leadership and resiliency; social justice and equity; and other related areas. The class reconvenes in early 2021 to complete the program.

Emerging Leaders Program Projects Go Virtual

As the Emerging Leaders Program Class of 2020 was not able to meet in-person, a series of 8 webinars was created to allow members to present their capstone projects. Throughout the year, teams researched topics including work-force practices, fare incentive programs, transit stop modernization, and electric bus resiliency. The webinars attracted more than 450 attendees and were downloaded over 100 times.

APTAU
Delivering the Future-Ready Workforce

More than 20,000 People Viewed APTA's Webinars

Beginning in March 2020, APTAU produced 45 webinars organized in four highly regarded series:

- COVID-19 Issues
- PERSPECTIVES
- Innovation in Mobility
- FutureView

The webinars disseminated expert information, facilitated important conversations, and allowed thought leaders to share knowledge with APTA members on a wide variety of topics.



APTA's Emerging Leaders Program, Class of 2020-2021

APTA Chair's Initiative: Workforce Readiness

At the request of APTA Chair Nuria Fernandez, Executive Committee Member Adelee Le Grand, CEO, Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority, Tampa, FL, assembled a diverse team of executive industry leaders to produce an interactive, online industry Workforce Readiness Guide.

The guide was designed to help attract disadvantaged high school and young college students to our industry by showcasing interviews, case studies, and more than 150 resources from 30 organizations including transit agencies, businesses, industry partners, and academic institutions.

Addressing the Needs of Essential Workers

APTA's Workforce Development Committee conducted several virtual events, including a special COVID-19 webinar, "Workforce Challenges During and Post-COVID-19," featuring agency executives and workforce experts. The committee also hosted member virtual town halls and APTA virtual conferences addressing front-line workforce mental health and innovations in hybrid and online training. More than 1,100 members participated in these activities.

Promoting Infrastructure Careers for High School Students

APTA Business Members again supported the youth infrastructure careers summer program, delivered by iyai+ (Introducing Youth to American Infrastructure). In partnership with iyai+, the Chicago Transit Authority, and Genfare, the virtual program included educational sessions on career opportunities in the public transportation sector.



APTA SCHOLARSHIPS

APTF 2019 Scholars were recognized at the TRANSform Conference Celebration of Excellence Awards. In 2019, the American Public Transportation Foundation awarded \$246,000 in scholarships to 38 recipients, the new record since the program was created in 1988.

In 2020, that milestone was again exceeded when APTF bestowed \$250,000 among 40 scholars at the virtual TRANScend Conference. During the past 32 years, APTF has awarded over \$1.75 million to more than 400 scholars pursuing careers in public transportation.

04 | CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

2019 APTA AWARDS

Organization Awards

INNOVATION AWARDS

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)
Dallas, TX

Milwaukee County Transit System
Milwaukee, WI

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Blacksburg Transit (BT), Blacksburg, VA,
Small System Award (fewer than 4 million annual passenger trips)

Clark County Public Transportation Benefit Area Authority (C-TRAN), Vancouver, WA
Mid-Size System Award (more than 4 million and fewer than 20 million annual passenger trips)

TransLink of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Large System Award (more than 20 million annual passenger trips)

Individual Awards

LOCAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Madeline Rogero
Mayor of Knoxville, TN



STATE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Jim Beall
California State Senator

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION MANAGER AWARD

Henry Li
General Manager / Chief Executive Officer,
Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT)

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEMBER

Carol Herrera
Chair, Foothill Transit Board of Directors,
West Covina, CA

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS MEMBER

Jeffrey Wharton
Goldsboro, NC



2019 Innovation Awards Winners:
Representatives of Dallas Area Rapid
Transit (left photo) and of Milwaukee
County Transit System



2019 Hall of Fame Inductees (L to R): Michael S. Townes, Richard A. White, Tony Kouneski, and Paul Toliver, along with APTA Chair Nuria Fernandez (center) and President and CEO Paul Skoutelas (far right)

Hall of Fame

Tony Kouneski

Former executive leader of public transportation systems, former senior executive at APTA, and founder of KL2Connects

Paul Toliver

Leader of APTA's first technology conference, and APTA's Outstanding Manager of the Year in 1999

Michael S. Townes

Former APTA Chair and executive leader of public transportation systems and in the private sector

Richard A. White

Former acting President and CEO of APTA, former APTA Chair, and executive leader of public transportation systems and in the private sector

2020 APTA AWARDS

Organization Awards

INNOVATION AWARDS

Golden Empire Transit, Bakersfield, CA

Pace Suburban Bus, Arlington Heights, IL

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA), Livermore, CA

Small System Award (fewer than 4 million annual passenger trips)

Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA), Columbus, OH

Mid-Size System Award (more than 4 million and fewer than 20 million annual passenger trips)

Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) Houston, TX

Large System Award (more than 20 million annual passenger trips)

Individual Awards

LOCAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Sharon Bulova

Retired as chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Fairfax, VA

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS MEMBER

Freddie Fuller II

Secretary/Treasurer, APTA Board, and Chair, Conference of Minority Transportation Officials

**OUTSTANDING PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEMBER**

Sharon McBride

Member of the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District Board of Trustees, Peoria, IL

**OUTSTANDING PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION MANAGER**

Nathaniel P. Ford Sr.

CEO, Jacksonville Transportation Authority, Jacksonville, FL

Hall of Fame

Barry Barker

Former Executive Director, Transit Authority of River City, Louisville, KY, and former chair of several APTA committees

Dr. Beverly Scott

Executive leader of public transportation systems in seven states and the District of Columbia.

Celia Cupersmith

Executive leader of public transportation systems in four states, including steward of the iconic Golden Gate Bridge and its supporting transit systems.

Paul Jablonski (*awarded posthumously*)
CEO, San Diego Metropolitan Transit System, San Diego, CA

Bus Safety & Security

SAFETY

Palm Tran, Palm Beach County, FL

GOLD Award

(More than four million and fewer than 20 million annual passenger trips)

Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Cap Metro), Austin, TX

GOLD Award

(More than 20 million annual passenger trips)

Pierce County Public Transit Benefit Area Corporation (Pierce Transit),

Pierce County, WA

Certificate of Merit

SECURITY

Southern Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA), Cincinnati, OH

GOLD Award

(More than four million and fewer than 20 million annual passenger trips)

Metro Regional Transit Authority (RTA),

Akron, OH

Certificate of Merit

Rail Safety & Security

SAFETY

COMMUTER / INTERCITY RAIL

New York MTA Long Island Railroad (LIRR),

New York, NY

GOLD Award

New York MTA Metro-North Railroad,

New York, NY

Certificate of Merit

LIGHT RAIL / STREETCAR

Niagara Frontier Transit Metro System, Inc.

(NFTA), Buffalo, NY

GOLD Award



WTS-DC Honors Paul Skoutelas

WTS's Washington, DC chapter awarded its 2019 **Honorable Ray LaHood Award** to APTA President and CEO Paul Skoutelas. The award recognizes an individual who has played a key role in WTS International's efforts to attract, retain, and advance women in transportation.



Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Awards for 2019: (L to R) Representatives of Blacksburg (VA) Transit (small system category); C-TRAN, Vancouver, WA (mid-size system category); and TransLink, Vancouver, BC, Canada (large system category)



APTA'S 2019 ANNUAL REPORT RECOGNIZED

APTA's 2019 Annual Report titled "TRANSFORMING MOBILITY: Connecting People, Places and Possibilities" won three awards:

- **APEX Grand Award (1st place)** for Annual Reports—by Communications Concepts
- **EXCEL Award (Bronze)** for Annual Reports—by Association Media & Publishing
- **TRENDY Award (Bronze)** for Annual Reports—by Association TRENDS

This is the first time an APTA annual report was recognized by three different organizations in a single year, and it was the fifth consecutive year an annual report earned one or more awards.

SECURITY

COMMUTER / INTERCITY RAIL

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation,
AMTRAK, Washington, DC

GOLD Award

LIGHT RAIL / STREETCAR

Sacramento Regional Transit (SacRT),
Sacramento, CA

GOLD Award

Maryland Transit Administration (MTA),
Baltimore, MD

Certificate of Merit

2019 AdWheel Grand Awards

EFFORT TO INCREASE RIDERSHIP OR SALES

MATBUS, Fargo, ND
(Small system category: fewer than 4 million annual passenger trips)

OMNITRANS, San Bernardino, CA
(Mid-size system category: more than 4 million and fewer than 20 million annual passenger trips)

Metropolitan Transit System, San Diego, CA
(Large system category: public transit systems with more than 4 million annual passenger trips)

Q'Straint, Oakland Park, FL
(Business member category)

EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS

EMBARK, Oklahoma City, OK
(Small system category: fewer than 4 million annual passenger trips)

Monterey-Salinas Transit, Monterey, CA
(Mid-size system category: more than 4 million and fewer than 20 million annual passenger trips)

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, San Jose, CA
(Large system category: public transit systems with more than 4 million annual passenger trips)

New Flyer of America, St. Cloud, MN
(Business member category)

EFFORT TO HIGHLIGHT TRANSIT NEEDS / FUNDING

Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (WHEELS), Livermore, CA
(Small system category: fewer than 4 million annual passenger trips)

Roaring Fork Transportation Authority, Aspen, CO
(Mid-size system category: more than 4 million and fewer than 20 million annual passenger trips)

Regional Transportation Authority, Chicago, IL
(Large system category: public transit systems with more than 4 million annual passenger trips)

New York Public Transit Association, Albany, NY
(Business member category)



2020 AdWheel Grand Awards

EFFORTS TO INCREASE RIDERSHIP OR SALES

Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (WHEELS), Livermore, CA

City of Albuquerque Transit Department, Albuquerque, NM

Metrolinx (GO Transit), Toronto, ON, Canada

Ohio Transit Risk Pool, Wadsworth, OH

EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS

LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency, Orange, CA

Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority, Tampa, FL

AC Transit (Alameda Contra-Costs Transit District), Oakland, CA

GILLIG LLC, Livermore, CA

EFFORTS TO HIGHLIGHT TRANSIT NEEDS / FUNDING

Norwalk Transit District (Wheels), Norwalk, CT

Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA), Memphis, TN

Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Houston, TX

Call Center Challenge

WINNER:

Joshua Bryden, Access Services, El Monte, CA

FINALISTS:

Dayna DeLaFuente, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority, Corpus Christi, TX

Aimee Hanson, Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (TriMet), Portland, OR

Natalie Lujan, Orange County Transportation Authority, Orange, CA

Nancy Saia, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), Philadelphia, PA



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION'S VOICE FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES

If communication creates community, **Rose Sheridan** is the reason our industry has a strong communal kinship. As vice president for Communications & Marketing, Rose has led APTA's messaging and shaped public transportation's image for nearly 23 years.

She has led the association's Research, Communication and Advocacy program (in partnership with the Government Affairs and Policy departments), as well as overseeing media relations, marketing, and advertising, APTA's website, and award-winning publications such as *Passenger Transport* and APTA's annual reports.

Rose performed a similar leadership role at the NJ TRANSIT that also included community relations, customer service, and sales for the statewide system.

As a former newspaper reporter and editor, she has always had a passion for telling our industry's story. With deep appreciation for her invaluable contributions, the transportation community wishes her much happiness in writing the next chapter of her story.

06 | APTA LEADERSHIP | 2019 - 2020

“Throughout history, mobility has always been the key to progress. Public transportation must continue to be that beacon of light for all. Building a stronger, more resilient and more equitable future depends on our leadership.”

— Nuria I. Fernandez

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Dorval R. Carter Jr.
At Large Member
Chicago, IL



Francis (Buddy) Coleman
Top 10 Business
Member
Woodbury, NY



David A. Genova*
Transit CEOs from
Top 10 Agencies
Denver, CO



Michael Goldman
At Large Transit
Board Member
Washington, DC



Huelon A. Harrison
At Large Business
Member
Dallas, TX



Carol Herrera*
Transit Board
Members
Committee
West Covina, CA



Richard J. Leary
Canadian Transit
System
Representative
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Henry Li
At Large Member
Sacramento, CA



Raymond J. Melleady
Business Member
Board of Governors
Exton, PA



Brad J. Miller
Mid-Size Operations
Committee
St. Petersburg, FL



Allan Pollock
Small Operations
Committee
Salem, OR



Catherine A. Rinaldi
Transit CEOs from
Top 10 Agencies
New York, NY

* partial term served

APTA OFFICERS / 2019-2020



Nuria I. Fernandez

APTA Chair

General Manager & CEO,
Santa Clara Valley
Transportation Authority
San Jose, CA



Jeffrey A. Nelson

APTA Vice Chair

General Manager, Rock Island
County Metropolitan Mass
Transit District (MetroLink)
Moline, IL



Freddie C. Fuller II

Secretary / Treasurer

Vice President, Jacobs
Woodbridge, VA



David M. Stackrow Sr.

Immediate Past Chair

Board Treasurer, Capital District
Transportation Authority
Albany, NY



Kevin J. Holzendorf

At Large Transit
Board Member
Jacksonville, FL



Karen H. King

Bus and Paratransit
CEOs Committee
Bakersfield, CA



Michele Wong Krause

At Large
Transit Director
Dallas, TX



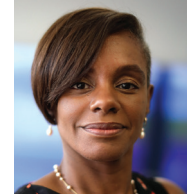
Jeanne Krieg

At Large Member
Antioch, CA



Thomas C. Lambert

Rail Transit CEOs
Subcommittee
Houston, TX



**Adelee Marie
Le Grand**

At Large Member
Lombard, IL



Leanne P. Redden

Legacy Systems
Chicago, IL



William T. Thomsen

At Large Business
Member
New York, NY



Doug Tisdale

Transit Board
Members Committee
Denver, CO



Matthew O. Tucker

Commuter Rail CEOs
Committee
Oceanside, CA



Thomas R. Waldron

At Large Business
Member
Newark, NJ

APTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS / 2019-2020

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Vice President, Government Affairs and Advocacy

Petra Mollet
Vice President, Strategic and International Programs

Rosemary Sheridan
Vice President, Communications and Marketing

* *partial term served*

** *deceased*

+ *honorary board member*



IN REMEMBRANCE

During the past year, the public transportation industry lost many members of its community. In the early months of the pandemic, transit's front-line employees—operators, maintenance workers, station managers, and police officers—were particularly hard hit by COVID-19. We are eternally grateful for their dedication and sacrifice.

The APTA family also lost several executive-level members. These individuals—including Joseph Alexander, Jim Capozzi, Tom Costello, Jack Gonsalves, Gerald Haugh, Paul Jablonski, Raymond Kenny, John LaPlante, Jim O'Sullivan, and Gregory Winterbottom—all served in a variety of leadership roles, working tirelessly to make our association and our industry more effective, influential, and aspirational.

Their legacy is APTA's ongoing work to improve life through mobility for all.



AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

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