



Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority
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February 9, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Emergency Funding for Public Transit in Budget Reconciliation Title

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am writing to thank the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for providing \$30 billion of COVID-19 emergency funding relief for public transit as part of the Committee's Budget Reconciliation Title. The proposed funding is vital to the industry's survival and will help prevent massive labor cuts and drastic service reductions.

Capital Metro urges the Committee to pass the Budget Reconciliation Title without change—and provide \$30 billion of emergency funding for public transit. This funding is vital to the transit industry's survival and public transit agencies' ability to continue to provide essential services and invest in the community.

Capital Metro is committed to the safety and wellbeing of our customers and frontline staff. We have implemented two service recognition payments and provided additional leave specifically to cover employees affected by COVID-19. Recovery funding has supported ongoing purchases of personal protective equipment (PPE) including masks, gloves and hand sanitizer; enhanced daily cleaning of vehicles; and the installation of UV-powered air purification systems for all buses.

In Central Texas and across the nation, public transportation provides a lifeline for communities to reach essential services, access grocery stores, and provide transportation for front-line workers to their workplaces. Federal COVID-19 recovery funding from the CARES Act and CRRSAA has helped allow Capital Metro the financial flexibility to protect our employees and customers while avoiding reductions in a service that is vital to the region's essential workers. This funding has also ensured that Capital Metro has been able to move forward with its capital projects without delay. These investments provide good-paying jobs now and community benefits well into the future.

This emergency relief funding will help to ensure that we can continue to provide this critical service to our communities and recover from the economic fallout of the pandemic with continued infrastructure investment.

We appreciate the commitment that Congress shown to the public transportation industry and the health and safety of communities across the United States including our own in Central Texas.

Sincerely,

Randy Clarke
President & CEO
Capital Metro
Austin, Texas

Cc:

The Honorable Lloyd Doggett

The Honorable John Carter

The Honorable Michael McCaul

The Honorable Roger Williams

The Honorable Chip Roy

The Honorable Pete Sessions