POLICY BRIEF



COVID-19 Pandemic Threatens Public Transit Businesses

Key Takeaways

- 1. More than eight in 10 businesses (86 percent) have seen a reduction in their transit industry business as a result of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and more than one-third of these businesses have already furloughed employees
- 2. If Congress and the Administration do not provide additional COVID-19 emergency funding for public transit agencies, nearly one-half of businesses (47 percent) expect to lay off employees
- 3. One-third of transit industry businesses (31 percent) are concerned that they may go out of business due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Public transportation industry businesses are directly impacted by the enormous financial pressures facing public transit agency budgets. More than eight in 10 businesses (86 percent) have seen a reduction in their transit industry business, with an average reduction in business of 36 percent.





One-third of businesses have already furloughed employees due to the pandemic, and 60 percent have cut back hiring. Four in 10 businesses (42 percent) have deferred investments in their company.

If Congress and the Administration do not provide COVID-19 emergency funding for transit agencies, nearly one-half of businesses (47 percent) expect to lay off employees.



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One-third of transit industry businesses (31 percent) are concerned that they may need to close their business due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Conclusion

Public transportation industry businesses rely on robust funding for their public transit agency partners. The public transit agency funding crisis caused by the pandemic is putting industry employees at risk and threatening the very survival of these businesses.

About the Survey

This survey was conducted of APTA business members in September 2020. One hundred and sixty-four (164) APTA business members responded to the survey.

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA)

The American Public Transportation Association is a nonprofit international association of 1,500 public and private sector organizations that represents a \$74 billion industry that directly employs 435,000 people and supports millions of private sector jobs. APTA members are engaged in the areas of bus, paratransit, light rail, commuter rail, subways, waterborne services, and intercity and high-speed passenger rail. This includes transit systems; planning, design, construction, and finance firms; product and service providers; academic institutions; transit associations and state departments of transportation. APTA is the only association in North America that represents all modes of public transportation. APTA members serve the public interest by providing safe, efficient and economical transit services and products.

Author Matthew Dickens Senior Policy Analyst 202.496.4817 | mdickens@apta.com

For General Information Policy Development and Research Darnell Grisby, Director 202.496.4887 | <u>dgrisby@apta.com</u> <u>www.apta.com/research-technicalresources/research-reports/</u>

APTA Vision Statement

APTA leads public transportation in a new mobility era, advocating to connect and build thriving communities