



Transit Agencies Need Additional Emergency Funding

Key Takeaways

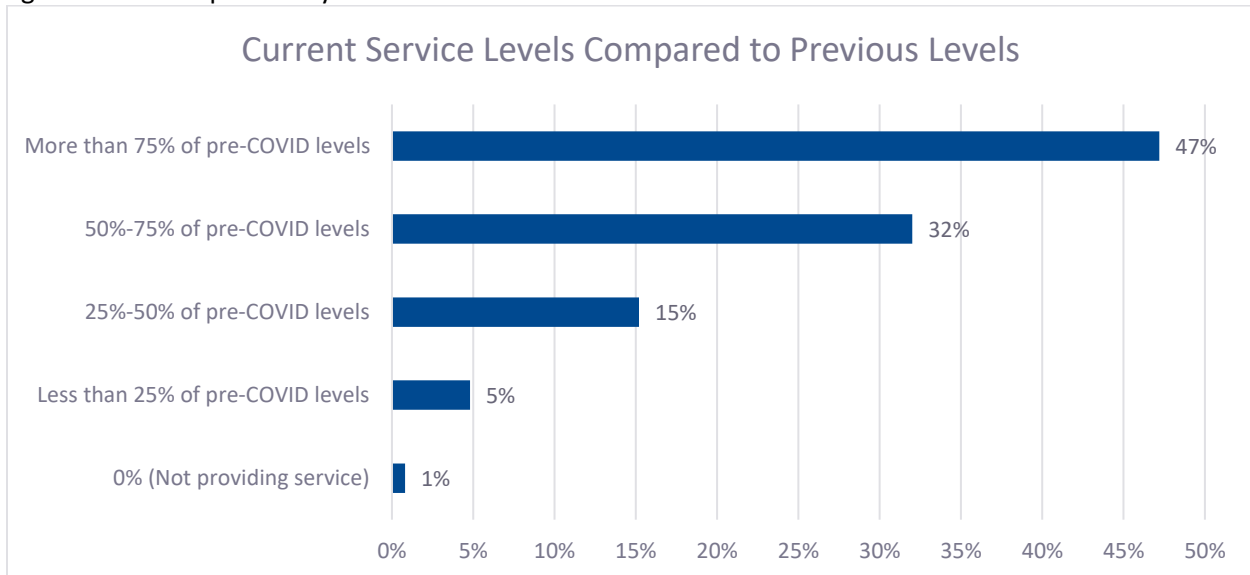
1. Reduced revenues due to depressed ridership, paused fare collection, and reduced tax revenues, together with increased operating costs to protect workers and riders, are straining public transit agency budgets.
 2. Almost one-third of public transit agencies have been forced to furlough employees or are planning future furloughs
 3. More than one-third of public transit agencies have had to delay capital projects, and nearly one in five agencies have shifted funds from their capital budget to their operating budget
 4. Public transit agencies need additional emergency funding to provide these essential services as the pandemic continues
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Public transit is critical to our nation's economy. The public transit industry directly employs 435,000 workers and supports millions of additional private-sector jobs. Transit also connects people to jobs and opportunity each and every day. Prior to COVID-19, Americans rode public transportation nearly 10 billion times a year. Beyond the sheer number of people that transit moves each day, the COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated the essential lifeline that transit plays in our communities—getting health care workers, first responders, and grocery store clerks to their jobs each day. In the wake of the pandemic and Governors' and mayors' declarations to close businesses and limit citizens' personal movement, public transit agencies across the nation face severe ridership decline and dramatic state and local revenue losses. In addition, the COVID pandemic has taken a significant toll on the transit agency workforce.

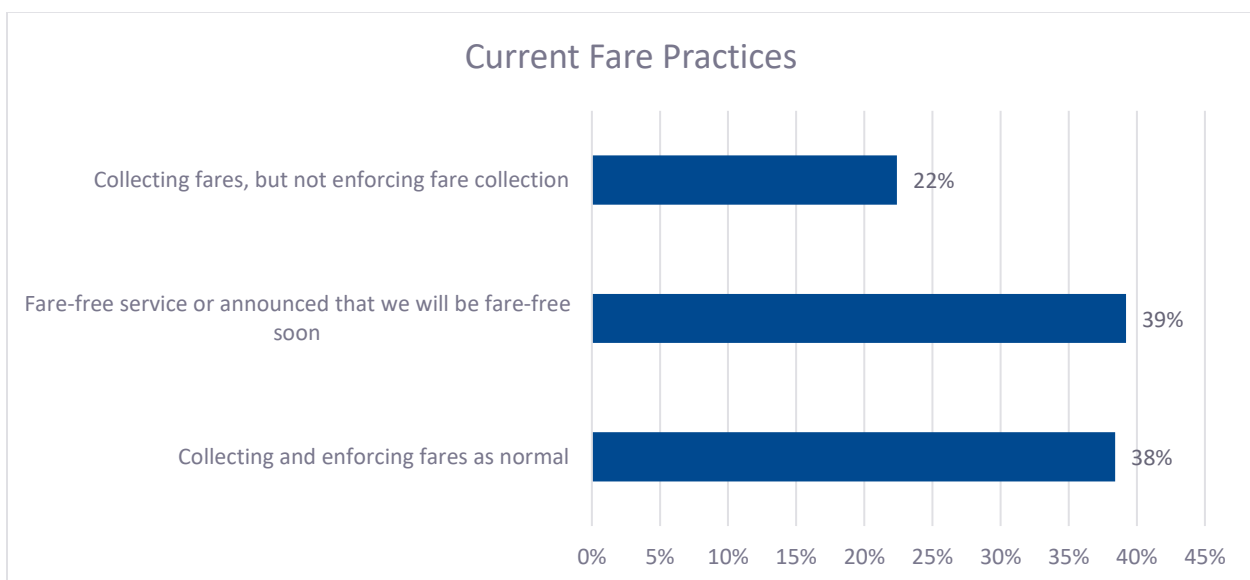
In late July 2020, APTA surveyed its public transit agency members on the continuing impacts of COVID-19 and how they are adapting their operations to respond to the pandemic and beyond. In April, APTA conducted a similar survey of its agency members. One hundred and twenty-one (121) public transit agencies responded to the July 2020 survey. A summary of the survey responses follows:

Current Service and Fares

Agencies are responding to increases in demand for transit and providing more service than they were in April. Nearly one-half of agencies (47 percent) are providing their full pre-COVID-19 service or close to it, compared to only 17 percent of agencies in the April survey. Seventy-nine percent of agencies are providing more than one-half of the service they provided pre-COVID-19, compared to 54 percent of agencies in the April survey.



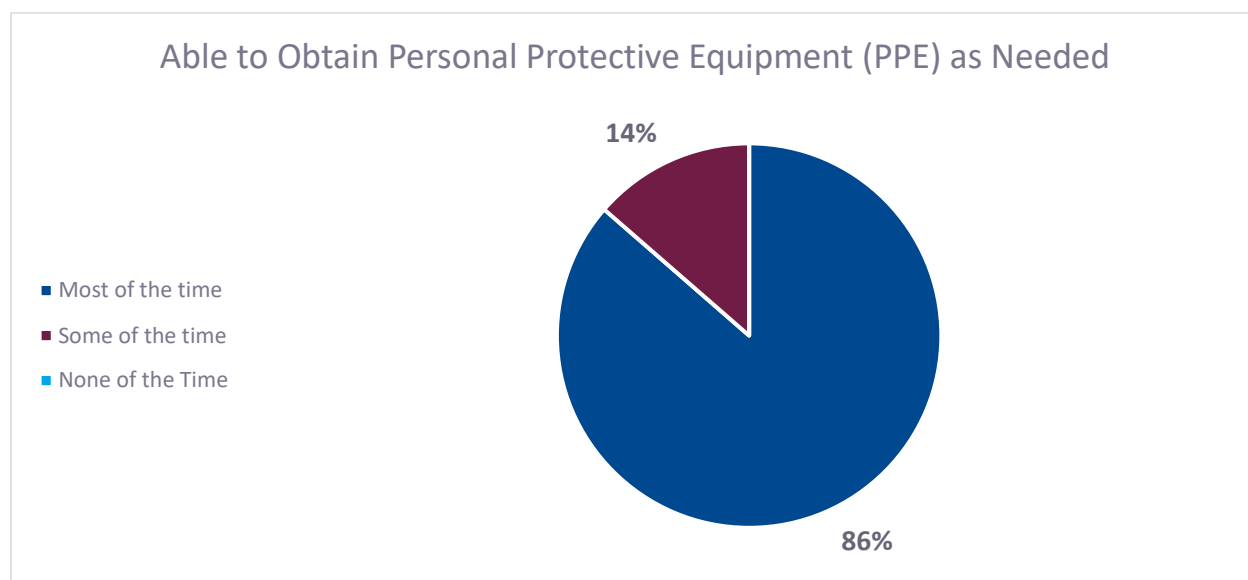
Despite moving to provide more service, many agencies are still not collecting fares or are not enforcing fare collection. More than three in five agencies (62 percent) either have fare-free service or are not enforcing fare collection. This fare collection is lower than the 87 percent of agencies that were not collecting or enforcing fares in the April survey, but is still a significant difference from normal operations. Many agencies have installed protective barriers between operators and the farebox area to enable fare collection while protecting their employees.



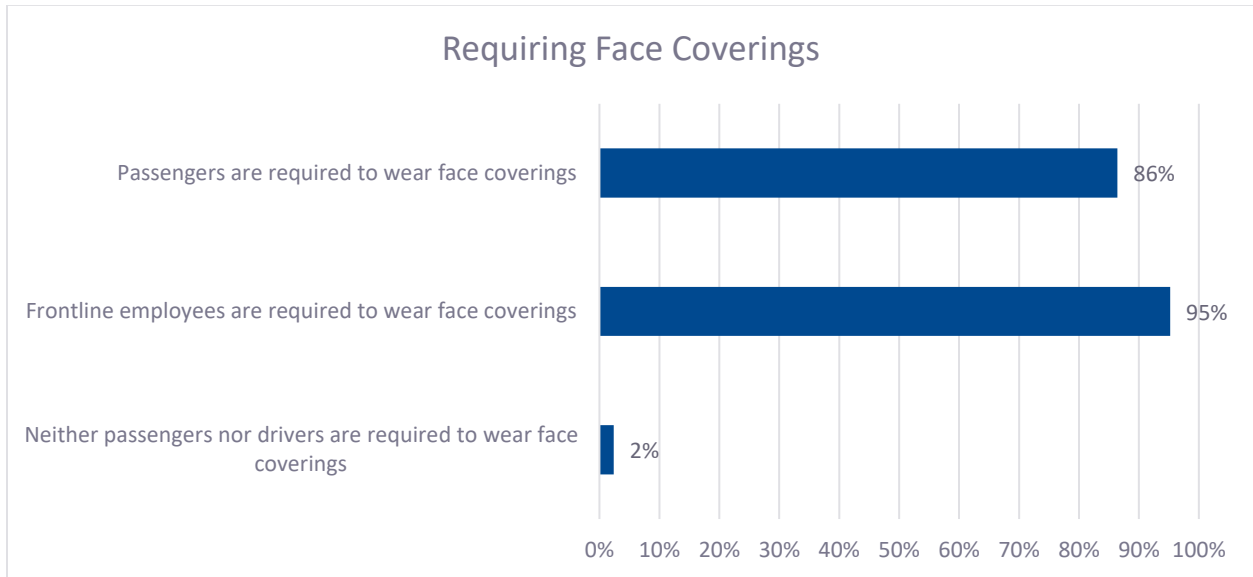
Protecting Riders and Workers

To ensure the safety of their riders and workforce, transit agencies have been purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) and increasing the cleaning of vehicles and facilities. Demand for PPE has been significant, as health care, first responders, and other essential industries purchase PPE as well.

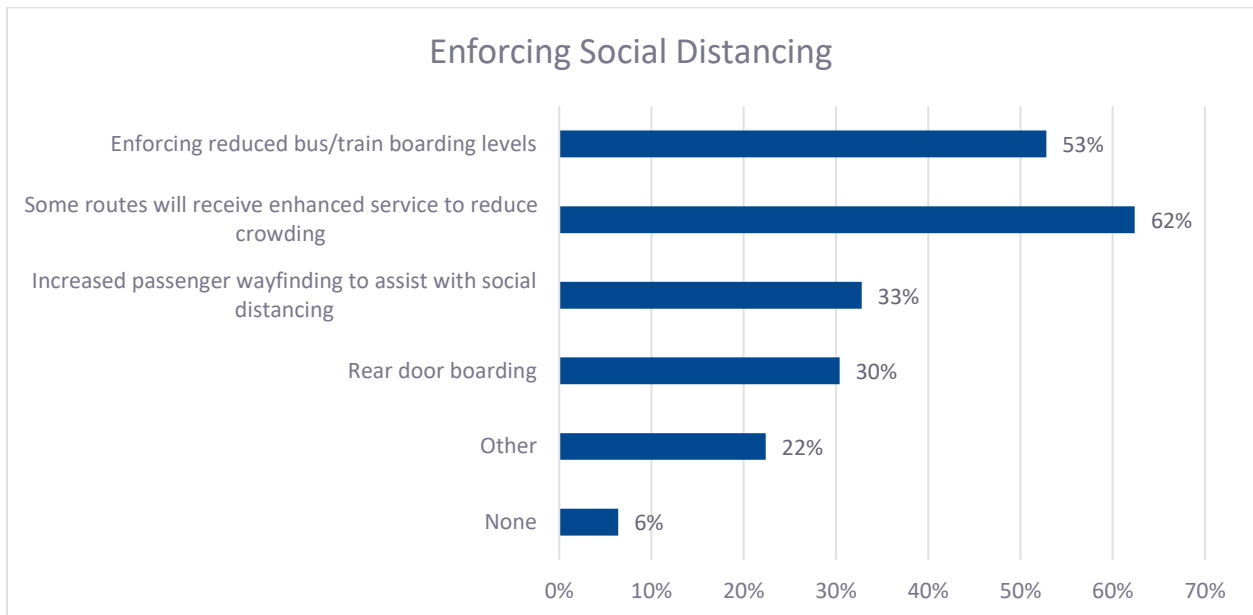
The vast majority of responding agencies (86 percent) said they have been able to obtain PPE as needed. This is a substantial increase over the situation in late April, when only 57 percent of agencies said they could obtain PPE most of the time. Fewer than one in seven agencies (14 percent) said that they were only able to obtain PPE some of the time, a decrease from the 41 percent of agencies in the April survey that had difficulty obtaining PPE.



The overwhelming majority of agencies are requiring passengers and frontline employees to wear face coverings. Ninety-five percent of responding agencies are requiring frontline employees to wear face coverings, and eighty-six percent are requiring passengers to wear face coverings. As part of this effort, some agencies are providing face coverings to passengers who do not have them.



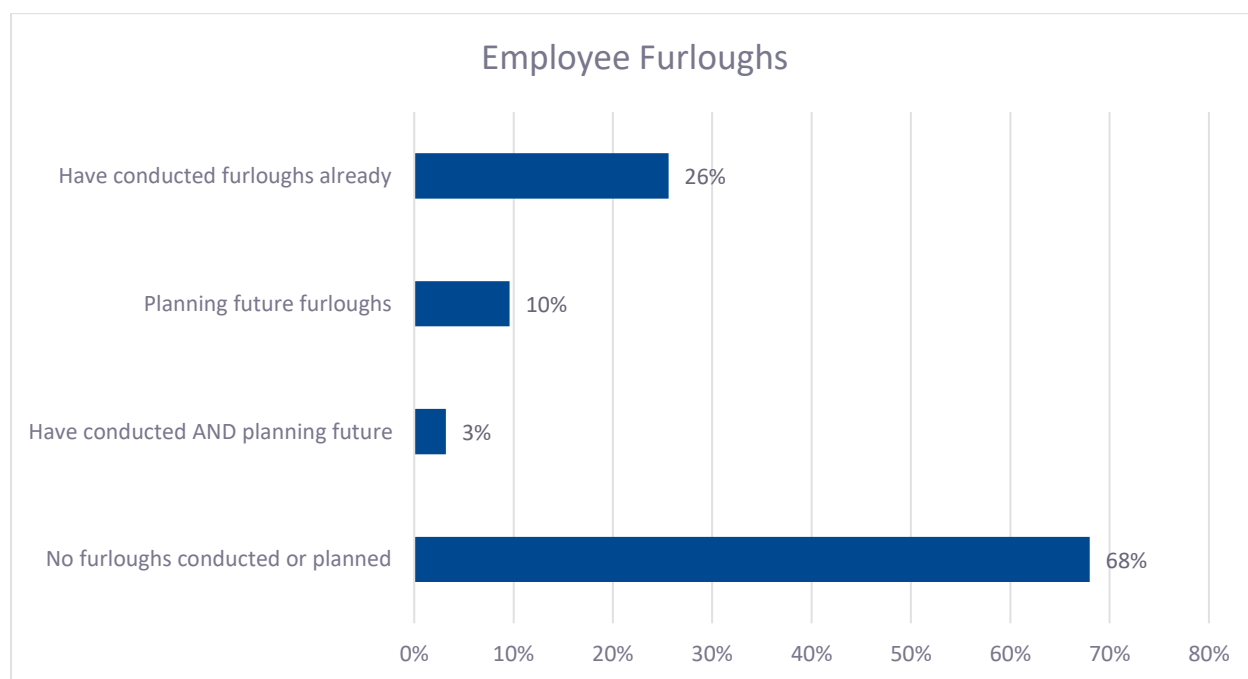
Agencies are also taking steps to provide more space for passengers. More than one-half of agencies (53 percent) are enforcing or planning to enforce reduced passenger levels on vehicles. Six in ten (62 percent) are increasing service to reduce crowding on certain routes.



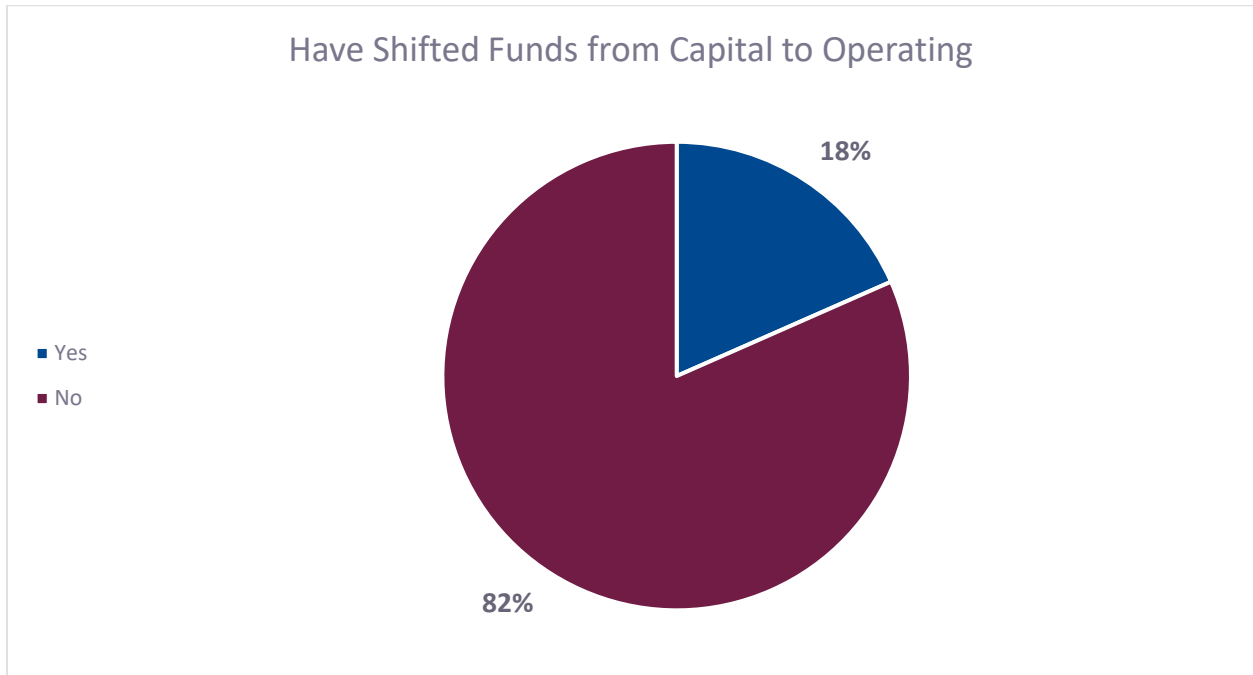
Impacts to Agency Budgets: Employee Furloughs and Delayed Capital Projects

Reduced revenues due to depressed ridership, paused fare collection, and reduced tax revenues, together with increased operating costs to protect workers and riders, are straining agency budgets. CARES Act funds have helped agencies continue to operate, but agencies have used their CARES funding at a rapid pace. According to the Federal Transit Administration, as of July 23, 2020, public transit agencies have obligated 80 percent of CARES Act funds, totaling nearly \$20 billion of the \$25 billion appropriated.

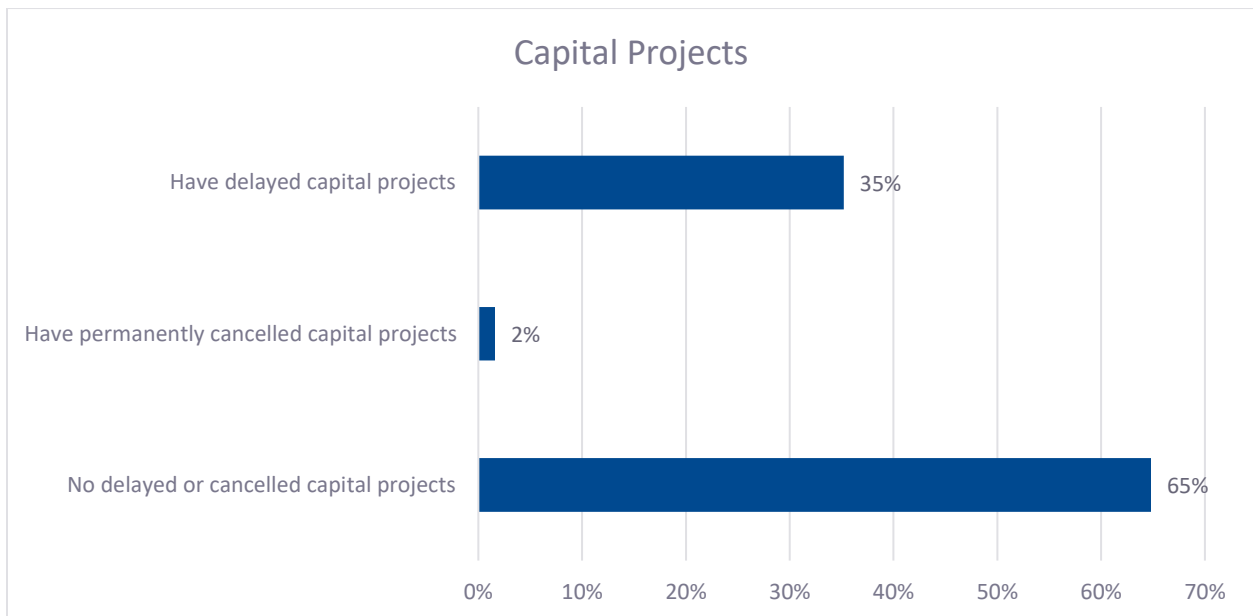
As a result of these increased costs and decreased revenues, almost one-third of agencies (32 percent) have furloughed employees or are planning future furloughs.



Agencies have also had to cut capital investment to address their significant increased operating costs and revenue losses. Eighteen percent of agencies have shifted funds from their capital budget to their operating budget.



More than one-third of agencies (35 percent) have had to delay or cancel capital projects due to the pandemic.



The American Public Transportation Association

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) is a nonprofit international association of 1,500 public and private-sector organizations that represent 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, subway, 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.

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APTA Vision Statement

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