

March 20, 2020



CAMBRIA COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Senator Pat Toomey
Senate Russell Bldg - 248
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Cambria County Transit Authority (CamTran) COVID-19 Funding Request

Dear Senator Toomey:

As you know, CamTran is working hard like every other public transportation agency to continue to provide life sustaining connections for our customers, especially now during the COVID -19 pandemic. The majority of our customers are transit dependent, and we are the only way they can get to the doctor, medical facilities, and grocery store, or to work at jobs that are life sustaining lifelines for our friends and neighbors in our communities across America!

Public Transportation is on the front lines and should also be supported in the emergency relief funding that is currently being discussed. We urge you to support the \$16 billion dollar that the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) is requesting on behalf of public transportation agencies across the United States.

We are working very hard to keep our employees and the riding public as safe as we can with heightened cleaning throughout the day, and deep cleaning at night. In addition, we are educating our employees and our customers about social distancing. However, due to the nature of public transportation this is a challenge. Starting Monday, March 23rd, we are starting free fares so riders can enter thorough the rear door, and only those with ADA needs or seniors can enter at the front door. We are still operating our regular services; fixed route, ADA and shared ride (only for life sustaining purposes.)

Today, we had to make the very difficult decision to start to lay-off employees because our shared ride service is down over 62% and fixed route is down 37% in urban service and 33% in rural service. Four part-time shared ride workers and one receptionist, with additional lay-offs expected to start next week if we need to reduce service due to lack of riders that could mean nearly 20 lay-offs.

April 1st, is the monthly Pittsburgh Food Bank day in Johnstown. Instead of packing the buses with seniors, as usually happens, we will bring the food to our customers who have registered in advance for the trip.

The PPTA Board has also reached out to PennDOT asking for us to be allowed to be used for food delivery if needed. Cambria County EMA already has notified us that they will use CamTran if needed to provide this service.

I would like to end by telling you that our employees have been exceptional, turning up-to-work every day to ensure we keep public transportation operating for our riders, and at the same time being anxious about their potential exposure. To date, no one has refused to drive the bus. Our employees care about our customers and this shows especially during these uncertain times.

The health and safety of our country must come first right now. But the need to assist public transportation would be greatly appreciated by our 147 employees and by our customers who in normal circumstances take over 1.2 million trips annually.

If you have any questions, please let me know by calling me on my cell at (814) 244-9943 or emailing me at rnoll@camtranbus.com.

Sincerely,



Rose M. Lucey-Noll
Executive Director

cc: CamTran Board of Directors
Josh Yoder, Assistant Executive Director/COO