



Dallas Area Rapid Transit
P.O. Box 660163
Dallas, TX 75266-0163
214-749-3278

March 17, 2020

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn,

I am writing today on behalf of Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) to share with you our current plan to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. The public response to this virus is extremely dynamic, and we are taking proactive steps to ensure the safety and well-being of our customers, as well as DART's approximately 4,000 employees.

DART has amplified our standard nightly cleaning procedures with enhanced Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-recommended cleaning protocols that include additional cleaning throughout the day for our rail cars, buses, transit centers, rail stations and office locations with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved cleaning products. DART has also suspended all non-essential business travel for DART employees beyond a 100-mile radius of the DART Headquarters building in downtown Dallas. Additionally, we are encouraging our employees to stay home if they are sick or exhibiting flu-like symptoms, and to adopt social-distancing techniques when interacting with others.

As Congress considers a supplemental appropriations bill to support relief efforts, we would like to provide you with our initial cost estimates (to date) for losses and our response to the crisis, which are:

- \$100,000 per week additional costs (split between additional supplies and additional labor);
- \$600,000 per week revenue loss;
- an estimated \$60 million sales tax loss for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2020; and
- an estimated 90-day loss of \$15 million in passenger revenue (fares).

As this public health situation evolves, we anticipate that the costs will also increase over time if the virus continues to propagate throughout the North Texas population. To date, the CDC has not placed any restrictions on transit, but DART is prepared to further enhance our cleaning efforts or alter our services should the need arise.

Please contact me at 214-749-2544 or gthomas@dart.org, or our Federal Relations Manager, Eron Linn, at 214-749-2799, or at elinn@dart.org, if you have any questions about this information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary C. Thomas", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary C. Thomas
President/Executive Director