



December 7, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Speaker Pelosi and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of America's largest American owned and operated bus manufacturer, the nearly 850 U.S. men and women we employ including those represented by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and the over 1,450 suppliers that support us and our customers - the public transit agencies across the United States I write to encourage you to support the bicameral, bipartisan proposal for a new COVID-19 relief bill with **at least \$32 billion in emergency funding for public transit.**

The public transit industry has been hit particularly hard by the pandemic. Transit authorities have battled reduced tax revenues from both state and local sources while experiencing higher operating costs associated with additional cleaning and increased service frequency to encourage on-board social distancing. The funds provided by Congress through the CARES Act helped delay more draconian measures, but agencies are now facing reduced service and lay-offs to survive. A September survey by the American Public Transit Association found that without additional emergency funding, **54 percent of transit agencies are considering laying off or furloughing staff and 61 percent may reduce service.**

Further reductions by the transit agencies will have a catastrophic effect on the manufacturing industry which supports them. Each major bus manufacturer has already reduced production levels and performed significant lay-offs as a result of the pandemic, and we are once again being forced to consider reductions. A number of our suppliers have already shuttered, and previously reliable suppliers are approaching a financial cliff. Without a robust supply base, OEMs will struggle to support deployed buses with replacement components throughout the FTA useful life, further complicating the state-of-good-repair backlog the agencies currently face.

The promising vaccines mean we may soon be able to pivot to economic recovery. As businesses reopen their offices and welcome employees back to a more traditional work setting, cities will once again require a safe and efficient transportation sector. **If agencies are forced to cut deep and the manufacturing businesses have to follow suit, the economic recovery will be jeopardized.**

Sincerely,

Derek Maunus
President & CEO

cc: The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio, Chair, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitt Romney, Committee on Homeland Security & Government Affairs (HSGAC), U.S. Senate

The Honorable Susan Collins, Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Joe Manchin, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Mark Warner, Committee on Finance, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator for California, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Kamala Harris, U.S. Senator for California, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Eric Swalwell, 15th District California, U.S. House of Representatives

Mr. Paul Skoutelas, President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA)