



March 20, 2020

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
United States Senate

The Honorable David E. Price
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
United States Senate

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Shelby, Chairwoman Lowey, Vice Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Collins, Chairman Price, Ranking Member Reed, and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

The Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America) strongly supports \$16 billion in direct emergency funding to public transit agencies in the third package of the COVID-19 response legislation to offset the extraordinary direct costs and revenue losses to public transit because of the dire impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Based on surveys of small, medium, and large public transit agencies, the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) has identified \$16 billion in direct emergency funding needs to public transit agencies, including \$1.75 billion to cover direct costs, \$7.65 billion for farebox revenue loss over the March – September 2020 period and a 40 percent loss over the October – December 2020 period, \$6.25 billion to cover dedicated sales tax revenue loss over the March – September 2020 period and a 40 percent loss over the October – December 2020 period, and \$350 million associated with restarting operations.

Founded as an official advisory board to the U.S. Department of Transportation, ITS America represents state and city departments of transportation, public transit agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, automotive manufacturers, technology companies, engineering firms, automotive suppliers, insurance companies, and academic and research universities. Our focus is policy that accelerates seamless mobility technology, connected and automated vehicle technologies, mobility on demand and smart infrastructure; policy that breathes new life into our transportation infrastructure by expanding investments in technologies;



and policy that encourages new models and modes of transportation, including micro-transit, ridesourcing, carshare, bikeshare, and micro-mobility.

We understand that the future of intelligent mobility, and its benefits of safer, greener, smarter communities, is fueled by a safe, efficient, and modern transit system. Mobility is rapidly changing with new on demand services, electrification, and soon automation. The one constant in the evolution of our nation's transportation system is public transit, which is and will remain an essential pillar for the new age of mobility.

This emergency funding for public transit is urgently needed as agencies struggle through catastrophic and unforeseen revenue loss caused by COVID-19. ITS America supports including \$16 billion in direct emergency funding to public transit agencies in the third package of the COVID-19 response legislation. ITS America and our members strongly appreciate your leadership as you work to stabilize our nation's economy and help the millions of Americans who are struggling through this unprecedented crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shailen Bhatt", written over a horizontal line.

Shailen Bhatt
President and CEO
The Intelligent Transportation Society of America

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations
Members of the House Committee on Appropriations
Members of the Senate Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Members of the House Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Ron Thaniel, Vice President of Legislative Affairs, ITS America, rthaniel@itsa.org