



March 18, 2020

Hon. Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
331 SHOB
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), I am writing to encourage the Federal Government to provide robust financial relief to our agency and other public transportation agencies that continue to operate and provide life-line services for first responders and others during the COVID-19 crisis. We support the American Public Transportation Association's request that Congress provide \$12.8 billion to transit agencies nationwide as an initial response to help with immediate needs. Specific to our agency, Metro requests targeted funding in the amount of \$800 million to cover the funding shortfalls we anticipate at our agency over the coming year.

Metro is unique among the nation's transportation agencies. We serve as transportation planner and coordinator, designer, builder and operator for one of the country's largest, most populous counties. More than 10 million people – nearly one-third of California's residents – live, work and play within our 1,433-square-mile service area. Metro's role in moving over 1.3 million people daily contributes to the economic vitality of our region – which helps drive the American economy. Because Metro is a critical entity for southern California's health, business and civic infrastructure - we are committed to continuing our operations to ensure that public transportation remains available for first-responders, healthcare workers and other key members of the workforce who need to move across Los Angeles County.

The most significant financial damage being incurred by our agency is a result of the drop in economic activity due to social distancing to mitigate the spread of the virus. According to our Office of Management and Budget, our agency may endure a potential loss of at least \$700 million in state and local sales tax losses over the coming year. This funding shortfall would have an acute impact on our ability to maintain our operations and would also be detrimental to our agency's overall financial standing.

With respect to labor and cleaning supplies related to the COVID-19 crisis, Metro estimates expenses in excess of \$35 million in additional material and labor costs over the coming year. This figure includes an initial surge for in-stock supplies and reflects intensive station and vehicle cleaning activities. We expect that our additional labor costs would remain

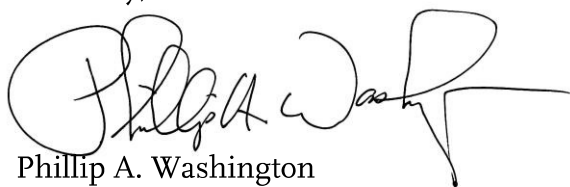
constant unless cleaning regimes need to be further increased – in which case our labor costs would escalate accordingly.

Based on our most recent statistics, Metro is facing a monthly shortfall of approximately \$11 million in revenue losses based on dramatic ridership declines. Over a four month window, our agency could reasonably expect a funding shortfall of \$44 million or more – based on the future severity of this crisis. As an example of the impact of COVID-19 on our transit system, our weekday boardings on our bus and rails network have declined by approximately 55%. This precipitous decline in ridership will take time to restore to pre-COVID-19 ridership levels – which constituted 1.3 million bus and rail boardings during weekdays.

Metro has been and will continue to be proactive in responding to the COVID-19 crisis and has formed a Contagious Virus Response Task Force that is closely coordinating with the L.A. County Department of Public Health, the California Office of Emergency Services, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure an appropriate response to the coronavirus. Our agency has strengthened cleaning at Union Station and our other major transit hubs. This includes an elevated focus on cleaning high touch point areas such as handrails, elevator call buttons, and ticket vending machines. Metro also continues to clean buses and trains at least once daily with EPA-approved disinfectants. On a daily basis we continue to review our agency's cleaning protocols to ensure that they are up-to-date as the current situation evolves. In addition, Metro is producing outreach materials, signage, web-based and written materials on what customers and staff can do to reduce the risk of being exposed to the virus.

Thank you in advance for your exceptional public service during this COVID-19 national emergency. We appreciate the steps already taken by the Federal Government to help all Americans stay healthy and safe during this crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip A. Washington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "W".

Phillip A. Washington
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Metro Board of Directors
Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation