



March 20, 2020

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate

The Honorable Joaquin Castro
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Chip Roy
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Will Hurd
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
United States House of Representatives

Dear Sirs:

VIA continues, as of March 19, 2020, to operate on a full schedule of service - providing bus service to San Antonio without any reduction in hours or length of operation. We continue to provide access to medical services and jobs for a vulnerable population.

However, we anticipate that a sustained social distancing and economic downturn will continue to result in both decreased ridership and decreased sales tax revenue, creating a tremendous strain on our ability to maintain service.

Like other MTAs in Texas, VIA's primary source of funding is from local sources; in fact, 87% of our current budget comes from local sources, with only 13% coming from federal formula funding and grants.

A decrease in sales tax revenue will have tremendous impacts on our operating ability each month - estimates place every 10% decrease in sales tax to be approximately a \$1.8 Million per month negative hit. For every 10% drop in ridership, VIA anticipates, based on the pre-COVID 19 estimates of fare revenue, to lose a minimum of \$170,000. Combined, these two decreases have the potential, at a minimum, for every 10% loss in sales tax and ridership to be almost a \$2 Million monthly loss to the overall budget of VIA. Should we experience a 20% decrease, for example, we would be anticipating a \$4 million monthly loss of funding.

With the effects of this crisis expected to last for months, we anticipate a long trend in lower ridership and sales tax revenues, potentially crippling our ability to maintain adequate levels of transit service while taking care of the 2100+ plus workforce we employ.

VIA requests your support for inclusion of \$16 billion for public transit support in Fiscal Year 2020 to offset the national \$1.75 billion of direct costs (cleaning of vehicles and facilities related to COVID 19); \$7.65 billion of farebox revenue loss anticipated; \$6.25 billion of dedicated sales tax revenue loss, and \$350 million of anticipated national costs to restart operations.

Transit agencies across America needed more than 5 years to recover from the 2008 recession. Without your support, this crisis will require a much longer recovery for public transit services across the nation.

Please contact Leroy Alloway, VIA's Director of Government & Community Relations at Leroy.Alloway@viainfo.net or by phone at 210.823.8969 with any questions or for additional information you may need to assist in this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeffrey C. Arndt
President/CEO