

**SAMTRANS**  
**CORRESPONDENCE**  
**as of 12-02-2020**



November 23, 2020

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein,

On behalf of the undersigned Bay Area public transportation operators and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, we are writing to provide an update on our urgent funding needs and share our strong support for the \$32 billion for public transit that was included in the updated HEROES Act. As proposed, the HEROES Act would provide the Bay Area with an additional \$1.2 billion in formula funding, plus the opportunity to apply for other emergency relief funds. These resources are critical to avoiding painful layoffs and service reductions that the region’s operators have either already approved, but have yet to take effect, or are in the midst of discussing, the most immediate being the layoff of 146 staff that are scheduled to take effect at the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District in early January. While transit ridership is starting to grow, reaching about 25 percent of normal in September, fare revenue is still down about 90 percent, resulting in a loss of over \$100 million/month compared to pre-COVID levels.

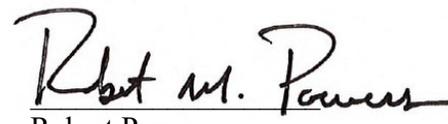
Meanwhile, the Bay Area’s transit operators are continuing to connect nurses, social service workers and grocery store employees to their jobs so they can carry out critical functions and connect residents without cars to essential services. While this is the essential role that transit plays today, it will also play a critical part of the Bay Area’s recovery, ensuring that our highways don’t end up in gridlock once we reach the other side of the pandemic. Already, Bay Bridge traffic is back to 85 percent of normal. When offices reopen across the region, enticing commuters back to transit will be critical to keeping our roadways moving and our tailpipe emissions in check.

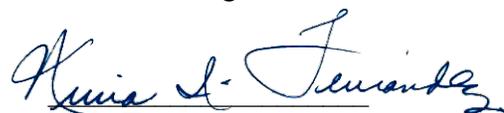
Without additional funding from Congress, the deeper service cuts and layoffs that were avoided by the CARES Act will be inevitable and risk long-term damage to our region’s ability to meet our mobility, social equity and climate goals. We are so grateful for your steadfast support during this national crisis and respectfully ask that you continue to ensure that transit is included in any COVID-relief package. If we can answer any questions or be of assistance in any way, please contact MTC’s Manager of Government Relations, Rebecca Long ([rlong@bayareametro.gov](mailto:rlong@bayareametro.gov) or 510-504-7914).

Sincerely,

  
Alix A. Bockelman  
Deputy Executive Director, MTC

  
Jeffrey Tumlin  
Director of Transportation, S.F. MTA

  
Robert Powers  
General Manager, BART

  
Nuria Fernandez  
General Manager, Santa Clara VTA



Jim Hartnett  
General Manager, Caltrain/Samtrans



Denis Mulligan  
General Manager, Golden Gate Bridge,  
Highway & Transportation District



Nina Rannells  
Executive Director, Water Emergency  
Transportation Authority



Diane Feinstein  
Transportation Manager, FAST



Jared Hall  
Transit Manager, Petaluma Transit



Beth Kranda  
Executive Director, Soltrans



Jeanne Krieg  
Chief Executive Officer, Tri Delta Transit



Farhad Mansourian  
General Manager, SMART



Kate Miller  
Executive Director, Napa Valley  
Transportation Authority (VINE)



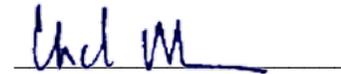
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General Manager, Wheels



Michael Hursh  
General Manager, AC Transit



Rick Ramacier  
General Manager, County Connection



Charles Anderson  
General Manager, WestCAT



Nila Gonzales  
Interim Executive Director, Transbay Joint  
Powers Authority



Daryl Hall  
Executive Director, Solano Transportation  
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Joan Malloy  
City Manager, Union City



Sean McGlynn  
City Manager, Santa Rosa CityBus



Stacey Mortensen  
Executive Director, Altamont Corridor  
Express (San Joaquin Regional Rail  
Commission)



Nancy Whelan  
General Manager, Marin Transit



November 23, 2020

The Honorable Kamala Harris  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator/Vice President-Elect Harris,

On behalf of the undersigned Bay Area public transportation operators and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, we would first like to offer our heartfelt congratulations to you and President-Elect Biden on your election victory. Additionally, we would like to provide an update on our urgent funding needs and share our strong support for the \$32 billion for public transit that was included in the updated HEROES Act. As proposed, the HEROES Act would provide the Bay Area with an additional \$1.2 billion in formula funding, plus the opportunity to apply for other emergency relief funds. These resources are critical to avoiding painful layoffs and service reductions that the region's operators have either already approved, but have yet to take effect, or are in the midst of discussing, the most immediate being the layoff of 146 staff that are scheduled to take effect at the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District in early January. While transit ridership is starting to grow, reaching about 25 percent of normal in September, fare revenue is still down about 90 percent, resulting in a loss of over \$100 million/month compared to pre-COVID levels.

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Without additional funding from Congress, the deeper service cuts and layoffs that were avoided by the CARES Act will be inevitable and risk long-term damage to our region's ability to meet our mobility, social equity and climate goals. We are so grateful for your steadfast support during this national crisis and respectfully ask that you continue to ensure that transit is included in any COVID-relief package. If we can answer any questions or be of assistance in any way, please contact MTC's Manager of Government Relations, Rebecca Long ([rlong@bayareametro.gov](mailto:rlong@bayareametro.gov) or 510-504-7914).

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Deputy Executive Director, MTC

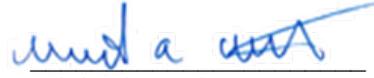
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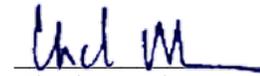
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Express (San Joaquin Regional Rail  
Commission)



Michael Tree  
General Manager, Wheels



Nancy Whelan  
General Manager, Marin Transit



November 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

On behalf of the undersigned Bay Area public transportation operators and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, we are writing to thank you again for your continued advocacy on behalf of public transit in the ongoing COVID-19 relief negotiations and update you on our urgent funding needs. We strongly support the \$32 billion included in the updated HEROES Act, which would provide the Bay Area with an additional \$1.2 billion in formula funding, plus the opportunity to apply for other emergency relief funds. These resources are critical to avoiding painful layoffs and service reductions that the region's operators have either already approved, but have yet to take effect, or are in the midst of discussing, the most immediate being the layoff of 146 staff that are scheduled to take effect at the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District in early January. While transit ridership is starting to grow, reaching about 25 percent of normal in September, fare revenue is still down about 90 percent, resulting in a loss of over \$100 million/month compared to pre-COVID levels.

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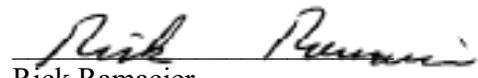
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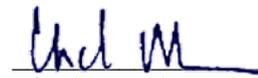
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