



---

Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District

Michael Hursh, General Manager

April 20, 2020

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty  
Chair, Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Supervisor, Alameda County Board of Supervisors  
1221 Oak Street, Room 536  
Oakland, CA 94612

**RE: CARES Act FTA Funding to Support Bay Area Transit Operations in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Dear Supervisor Haggerty,

AC Transit supports MTC staff's programming recommendations for the approximate \$781 million in CARES Act FTA funding which will be presented to the full MTC Commission on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The recommend apportionment amount of \$80,366,395 to AC Transit will help relieve the immediate critical funding shortfall that the District is facing.

AC Transit is a critical, regional public transportation link for the Bay Area; moving over 170,000 people each weekday including over 14,000 people across the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge from the East Bay into San Francisco. However, the COVID-19 pandemic is having a significant and immediate impact on AC Transit ridership. Our most recent analysis shows that we are experiencing a **ridership decline of 72%** and a **weekly revenue decline of \$1.3 million**. As a result, the District has been forced to implement a series of reductions in service including the following:

- Suspended all 46 supplementary bus routes to schools
- Suspended 26 Transbay routes
- Suspended 12 local routes
- In total, temporarily suspended 84 of 153 bus routes
- Operating 45% of regular bus routes (local, Transbay and Supplementary)
- Reduced daily service to modified Sunday service
- Stopped collecting fares as of March 22, 2020
- Incurred \$571,844 to date on unbudgeted coronavirus related expenses such as PPE, disinfecting materials and supplies, remote technology equipment, additional internet services and bandwidth, etc.

Additionally, we have implemented several safety enhancement measures – for the safety of both operators and riders including enhanced cleaning of buses, social distancing minimums on board, rear door boarding and no fares, and maximum passenger thresholds onboard.

While this initial allocation is critical and will help us weather the current crisis, we believe the impending financial impacts resulting from the projected loss of sales tax and gas tax revenues will be detrimental to our service. The Alameda County Transportation Commission estimates a reduction of 25% in sales tax revenues for the month of March and 50% per month thereafter while the shelter in place order is in effect. At risk are funds from the Transportation Development Act's one – quarter percent sales tax which provided over \$72 million last year to AC Transit and other local sales taxes from Measures B, BB, and J which provided over \$69 million to AC Transit last year.

Your support over the upcoming months will be imperative to ensure that we are supported at both the federal and state levels with new funds to keep the doors open and buses running through the hard times to come.

Sustainable and available public transit is vital in this time of crisis, as we still carry many essential service workers to and from their jobs.

We thank you for your support to date and look forward to our continued partnership to ensure that public transit providers receive additional financial support to continue to provide bus service for transit dependent riders, to decrease congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, and provide equitable mobility options for commuters, students, seniors and people with disabilities.

If you need additional information in advance of your commission meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me at [mhursh@actransit.org](mailto:mhursh@actransit.org) or Beverly Greene at [bgreene@actransit.org](mailto:bgreene@actransit.org)

Sincerely,



Michael Hursh  
General Manager

CC: AC Transit Board of Directors