



July 6, 2020

Commissioner Nick Josefowitz, Chair  
Programming and Allocations Committee  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Bay Area Metro Center  
375 Beale St., Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

Dear Chair Josefowitz:

As agencies representing transit riders throughout the Bay Area we support the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) decision to recommend the attached funding plan for the second tranche of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds. In order to meet the needs of our riders and employees and to comply with the purposes of the CARES Act, it is imperative that the allocation be made now.

This is a time of unprecedented challenges for every transit agency as we all struggle to support our riders and preserve our employment base. Each of us clearly needs additional funds beyond CARES and we must work together to advocate at the state and federal level to secure them. For now, allocating these funds as quickly as possible is essential and it should be done using the BRTF recommendation, which was developed by MTC staff in consultation with all of the Bay Area's transit agencies.

The assumptions used to develop the BRTF recommendation are not optimistic. They represent a conservative approach that acknowledges that regardless of source, the impacts on transit agency revenues will be severe. The recommendation also makes important and thoughtful adjustments based on equity that reflect the focus that we must have on serving the most vulnerable members of our rider communities.

The recommendation also acknowledges that, unless additional revenues can be secured, some of our systems will once again face critical shortfalls more quickly than others. In light of the unprecedented challenges that we all face, and that our riders face, we must accept these risks and we must work as hard as we can together to avoid them.

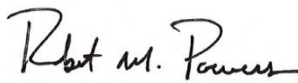
It is important to emphasize that all of our agencies are staunchly committed to protecting the health of both our riders and our employees, including front line workers. We are continuing to provide personal protection equipment (PPE) to our workers and are undertaking other recommended practices to ensure a safe working environment.

None of us can say for certain what revenues, ridership and driving behaviors will look like moving forward. MTC staff did a remarkable job balancing sets of conflicting data to fashion the adopted recommendation. It strikes a good balance and it is critical for every agency that all the funds be distributed as quickly as possible. We look forward to continuing our work together to ensure the viability of public transit in the Bay Area - especially for those that depend on it the most.

Sincerely,



Michael Hursh,  
General Manager  
Alameda-Contra Costa Transit  
District



Robert Powers,  
General Manager  
San Francisco Bay Area  
Rapid Transit District (BART)



Jim Hartnett, General  
Manager/Executive Director  
San Mateo County Transit  
District/Caltrain



Rick Ramacier,  
General Manager  
County Connection



Jeanne Krieg  
Chief Executive Officer  
Tri Delta Transit



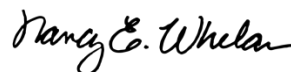
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