



**PEOPLE'S
TRANSIT
ALLIANCE**

[www. peoplestransit.org](http://peoplestransit.org)

[f @eastbaydsa](https://www.facebook.com/eastbaydsa)

[@dsaeastbay](https://www.instagram.com/dsaeastbay)

[@peopletransit](https://twitter.com/peopletransit)

June 7, 2021

Re: Distributing Transit Rescue Funds For Immediate Use

Dear Chair Pedroza and Commissioners:

As elected officials in the Bay Area, we write to urge you to allocate \$1.67 billion in American Rescue Plan (ARP) transit funds for immediate use.

Congress has apportioned to Bay Area transit agencies a generous stimulus package to hire workers and restore service, and we are disappointed to learn that MTC is not planning to adopt an allocation of these funds until late July. The transit agencies in our districts need to budget these funds now in order to plan to hire workers, fund operations, and restore service in the fiscal year that begins July 1. As mid-pandemic stimulus funding, it should be distributed immediately to stimulate our local economies by hiring workers and taking shoppers and diners to their destinations to spend money in our communities.

We strongly oppose MTC's positioning itself as a gatekeeper over when our transit agencies can access their shares of this crucial funding. MTC's statement that it is "playing the long game" contradicts the explicit purpose of these funds: to recover transit operations from the pandemic and stimulate our economies. Currently, thousands of riders are being passed up each day because buses and trains are running reduced schedules. The longer service levels remain reduced, the more likely it is that riders will give up on transit and find permanent alternatives.

Transit is an essential public service that our constituents depend on, especially our low income and Black and Brown constituents, and our elders, students, and disabled. Each day that MTC delays making an allocation of ARP funds, you deny our local transit agency boards, and our transit workers and riders, the chance to plan for a swift recovery of service.

We urge the MTC to allocate (or make a fund estimate of) ARP funds immediately, so that it can be put to immediate use in restoring service and creating good union jobs.

Signed,

Jovanka Beckles
AC Transit Board, Ward 1

Gayle McLaughlin
Richmond City Council, District 5

Claudia Jimenez
Richmond City Council, District 6



**PEOPLE'S
TRANSIT
ALLIANCE**

[www. peopletransit.org](http://www.peopletransit.org)

[@eastbaydsa](https://www.facebook.com/eastbaydsa)

[@dsaeastbay](https://www.instagram.com/dsaeastbay)

[@peopletransit](https://twitter.com/peopletransit)

Eduardo Martinez
Richmond City Council

Melvin Willis
Richmond City Council, District 1

Devin T. Murphy
Pinole City Council

Ben Bartlett
Berkeley City Councilmember, District 3

Kate Harrison
Berkeley City Councilmember, District 4

Paola Laverde
Berkeley Rent Boardmember

Tina Arriola
Vallejo City Councilmember

John Bauters
Emeryville City Councilmember

Matt Haney
San Francisco Supervisor, District 6

Dean Preston
San Francisco Supervisor, District 5

Carroll Fife
Oakland City Councilmember, District 3

Nikki Fortunato Bas
Oakland City Council President, District 2

CC:

AC Transit Board and General Manager

SFMTA Board and General Manager

BART Board and General Manager

VTA Board and General Manager



**PEOPLE'S
TRANSIT
ALLIANCE**

 peoplestransit.org

 @eastbaydsa

 @dsaeastbay

 @peopletransit

SamTrans Board and General Manager

Golden Gate Transit Board and General Manager

WestCat Board and General Manager

Tri-Delta Transit Board and General Manager

Yeon Park
Vice President-East Bay, SEIU Local 1021

Liz Ortega
Alameda Labor Council

Josh Anijar
Contra Costa Labor Council

Kim Tavaglione
San Francisco Labor Council