



July 16, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Chairman
Committee on Banking
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Ranking Member
Committee on Banking
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators McConnell, Schumer, Crapo and Brown:

On behalf of the Community Transportation Association of America's nearly 1,400 members, comprised of rural, small-urban, non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) and specialized transportation providers, we are writing to you regarding the importance of using the existing formulas -- including Section 5310 -- for any subsequent supplemental appropriations responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As Congress prepares another round of necessary supplemental appropriations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic — with the objective to restore as much of the nation's economy and public health as possible — it's important to recognize the ways in which supporting public and specialized transportation can help get this critical mission accomplished. Supplemental appropriations to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will help assure that transit will continue to be there for getting essential workers to and from their jobs, for providing necessary mobility for people who can't drive themselves to jobs, healthcare or shopping, and for connecting older adults and persons with disabilities with food, medications and medical services.

In order to provide access to jobs and services under the current pandemic, our nation's public transportation services are having to put more vehicles into service on account of having to reduce the number of people on board a transit vehicle at any given moment, are having to

spend money they'd before had to budget on continued cleaning and disinfecting of transit vehicles and passenger facilities, and are having to spend additional money on assuring the health and safety of the transit workforce.

When Congress passed the CARES Act this spring, our nation's leaders understood that a large, one-time infusion of federal assistance was vitally necessary. CTAA's members greatly appreciated the way the CARES Act was developed, and how the FTA has successfully implemented the program under difficult circumstance. Today, though, we realize that the pandemic — its economic impacts, and its public health concerns — will be with us for a while longer, presenting mounting challenges throughout the country. Therefore, there is a pressing need for a supplemental appropriation to the federal transit program.

As with all interventions for economic and public health emergencies, timeliness and urgency are paramount. We feel that it is essential that federal transit assistance provided through this appropriation be directed through FTA's statutory formulas for urban public transit (Section 5307), rural and tribal public transit (Section 5311) and specialized transportation for our nation's vulnerable elders and individuals with disabilities (Section 5310). It is equally imperative that these funds be distributed in accordance with those programs' proven funding formulas, and the use of those formula-based methodologies will mean that public transit providers will be able to draw down and use these funds within two weeks of a supplemental appropriations' enactment, without having to wait for any new program guidance, application processes or distribution mechanisms. Using the FTA funding formulas will assure that transit systems across the country continue to move quickly to get us all through the worst of this pandemic.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at bogren@ctaa.org or 202.247.1921. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Bogren", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Bogren
Executive Director