



Public Transit Emergency Funding COVID-19 Phase 4 Emergency Response Legislation Talking Points

July 27, 2020

- The COVID-19 pandemic has driven home the vital role public transit plays in our communities, bringing healthcare professionals to the frontlines, delivering groceries and medicine to at-risk populations, and connecting essential workers to their places of work.
- Without additional emergency funding, many transit agencies will need to consider cutting transit services and routes and furloughing transit workers.
- **APTA urges Congress to provide at least \$32 billion of additional emergency public transit funding in the COVID-19 Phase 4 emergency response legislation.**
- On May 7, 2020, APTA requested \$23.8 billion of additional transit emergency funding based on an independent economic analysis, conducted in April 2020, on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on public transportation. At that time, the study found that transit agencies faced a \$23.8 billion shortfall of additional COVID-19 costs and revenue losses, above the \$25 billion provided in the CARES Act.
- Over the past three months, in many states and communities, things have taken a turn for the worse—COVID-19 cases are spiking, governors and mayors are renewing stay-at-home orders, and businesses are shutting down. **APTA estimates that the shortfall of additional transit COVID-19 costs and revenue losses is now at least \$32 billion.**
- These additional emergency funds are critical to ensuring that public transit can continue to be a lifeline for our essential workers and help our communities rebuild their economies in the wake of the pandemic.
- These funds are also critical to maintain the manufacturing and supply chain and limit the enormous economic damage to public transportation businesses caused by the pandemic.

Questions and Answers

Transit Agencies Received Enough Funding from the CARES Act

If congressional staff express concern about providing additional funding beyond the CARES Act, here are some key points to raise:

- The CARES Act was an essential step to help transit agencies maintain critical service. APTA and its members are incredibly thankful for this assistance.
- According to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), as of July 23, 2020, **public transit agencies have obligated 80 percent of CARES Act transit funds** through 558 grants totaling nearly \$20 billion of the \$25 billion appropriated.
- As a result, public transit agencies need additional emergency funding to continue to provide these essential services in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **APTA estimates that the shortfall of additional COVID-19 costs and revenue losses is at least \$32 billion, above the funding provided in the CARES Act.**
- We know there are many needs throughout our country. This funding is critical to ensure that public transit can continue to provide essential services and help our communities and country recover from the pandemic.

APTA's Position on H.R. 6800, The Heroes Act

In May, the House passed H.R. 6800, The Heroes Act, which provides \$15.75 billion of emergency funding for public transportation. If asked for APTA's position, two key points to raise:

- We greatly appreciate the House recognizing the critical role that public transportation plays in the daily lives of essential workers. Investing in public transit is also critical to our nation's economic recovery.
- This is a very positive step. However, the need for additional transit emergency response funding is much greater than provided under the bill and we urge Congress to provide at least \$32 billion of transit funding to offset transit agencies' increased costs and revenue losses.

If you have a story about how COVID-19 has directly or indirectly impacted your public transit agency or business and the dire need for additional transit emergency funding, please share it with congressional offices.