



## Public Transit Emergency Funding COVID-19 Emergency Response Legislation Talking Points

*December 4, 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.
- The bipartisan, bicameral proposal of **a new \$908 billion COVID-19 aid package that includes \$15 billion for public transit emergency relief is a starting point for negotiations.**
- According to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), as of December 3, 2020, **public transit agencies have obligated 94 percent of CARES Act transit funds** through 763 grants totaling nearly \$23.5 billion of the \$25 billion appropriated; more than one-half (59 percent) of these funds have been fully expended.
- **APTA urges Congress to provide at least \$32 billion in emergency funding to ensure that public transit agencies can survive.** Immediate action needs to be taken to address a ravaged public transportation industry that continues to serve Americans every day.
- Based on a September 2020 survey of transit agencies, **without additional emergency funding, 54 percent of transit agencies are considering laying off or furloughing staff and 61 percent may reduce service.**
- Additionally, **nearly one-half (47 percent) of business members surveyed expect to lay off employees** if Congress does not provide additional COVID-19 emergency funding for public transit.
- The public transportation industry's very survival is at stake.
- We urge Congress and the Administration to enact COVID-19 emergency transit funding legislation before it adjourns for the year.