

September 23, 2020

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin  
509 Hart SOB  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark R. Warner  
703 Hart SOB  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton  
2136 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
110 Hart SOB  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Kaine  
231 Russell SOB  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Morgan Griffith  
2202 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andy Harris  
2334 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert J. Wittman  
2205 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jennifer Wexton  
1217 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable C.A. Dutch  
Ruppersberger  
2206 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Elaine Luria  
534 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly  
2238 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John P. Sarbanes  
2370 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert C. Scott  
1201 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anthony G. Brown  
1323 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable A. Donald McEachin  
314 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer  
1705 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Denver Riggleman  
1022 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Trone  
1213 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ben Cline  
1009 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume  
2163 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Abigail Spanberger  
1239 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin  
412 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Beyer  
1119 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the Congressional Delegation for Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia:

**Transit is a lifeline for essential workers and critical to our economic health and well-being.** The CARES Act, passed in March of this year, provided a stop gap to help transit agencies survive dramatic losses in revenue streams, unprecedented drops in ridership, and fund new and enhanced cleaning protocols, but the funding is running out. Transit agencies nationally need \$32 billion in emergency operating funds to avoid damaging service and jobs cuts and minimize economic hardship.

The vast majority of WMATA funding comes from capital contributions, jurisdictional subsidies, and farebox revenues from riders. Since COVID-related restrictions were enacted in March, farebox revenues have evaporated. Bus fares were waived around the Capital Region to minimize interaction between rider and driver, and Metrorail, which kept fares intact, has averaged only about 10% of the pre-COVID ridership since March. In Maryland, the Transportation Trust Fund relies largely on motor fuel taxes, titling and registration fees, federal aid, sales tax, transit fares, and port and airport fees, all of which have taken a hit during the pandemic, with corresponding impacts to the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). Meanwhile, as jurisdictions face the worst fiscal crisis in living memory, they are stripping budgets to the bones, leaving no room to alleviate losses in farebox revenue through additional jurisdictional subsidies.

When the CARES Act funding runs out, transit agencies will be forced to cut transit service and furlough or lay off workers or redistribute capital funds, intended for repairs and expansion, to operating budgets. Both options will seriously harm the viability, safety, and reliability of transit service in the short and long term, but more importantly, it will harm the riders, businesses, and regional economies and workers that depend on transit. Anticipating the lack of federal aid, WMATA and the Maryland Transit Administration have already warned of service and workforce cuts to address their COVID-19 revenue impacts. Cuts to transit will harm the region, weaken the economic recovery, slash capital expenditures and the jobs they support, and worsen inequality.

**The economy cannot recover without transit.** If Congress fails to act this month to fund \$32 billion in emergency operating funds, it will deepen the economic pain already felt by millions throughout the country. In this time of uncertainty, grief, and loss, Congress must put aside their differences and work together to fund transit or this region will emerge weaker on the other side of the virus.

The undersigned business groups, transit agencies, unions and elected officials urge you to commit this critically needed funding for transit. Our riders, our economy, and our region depend on it.

Sincerely,

Hon. Levar M. Stoney  
*Mayor*  
City of Richmond, Virginia

Hon. Justin M. Wilson  
*Mayor*  
City of Alexandria, Virginia

Hon. David Meyer  
*Mayor*  
City of Fairfax, Virginia

Hon. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker  
*Vice Mayor*  
City of Alexandria, Virginia

Hon. John Taylor Chapman  
*Member of City Council*  
City of Alexandria, Virginia

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*County Board Members*  
Arlington County, Virginia

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Fairfax County Board of  
Supervisors

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*Hunter Mill District Supervisor*  
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Hon. James R. Walkinshaw  
*Braddock District Supervisor*  
Fairfax County Board of  
Supervisors

Hon. Phyllis J. Randall  
*Chair, At-Large*  
Loudoun County Board of  
Supervisors

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*Council Member, 6th District*  
Richmond City Council

Hon. Brandon M. Scott  
*President*  
Baltimore City Council

Hon. Dr. John Bullock  
*Council Member*  
Baltimore City Council

Hon. Ryan Dorsey  
*Chair, Transportation Committee*  
Baltimore City Council

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Montgomery County Council

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*Councilmember, District 1*  
Montgomery County Council

Hon. Tom Hucker  
*Council Vice President, District 5*  
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Hon. Evan Glass  
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*Council Member, 1st District*  
Prince George's County Council

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*Council Member, 2nd District*  
Prince George's County Council

Hon. Dannielle Glaros  
*Council Member, 3rd District*  
Prince George's County Council

Hon. Todd M. Turner  
*Chair, Council Member, 4th District*  
Prince George's County Council

Hon. Jolene Ivey  
*Council Member, 5th District*  
Prince George's County Council

Hon. Muriel E. Bowser  
*Mayor*  
District of Columbia

Hon. Brianne K. Nadeau  
*Councilmember*  
DC Council

Paul J. Wiedefeld  
*General Manager & CEO*  
Washington Metropolitan Area  
Transit Authority

Kevin B. Quinn, Jr.  
*Administrator*, Maryland  
Department of Transportation  
Maryland Transit Administration

Hon. Katie Cristol  
*Chair, Northern Virginia*  
Transportation Commission

Hon. Derrick Leon Davis  
*County Council, 6th District*  
Prince George's County Council  
*Board Chairman*, Washington  
Metropolitan Council of  
Governments

Hon. Rodney Streater  
*Council Member, 7th District*  
Prince George's County Council

Hon. Sydney Harrison  
*Council Member, 9th District*  
Prince George's County Council

Hon. Mel Franklin  
*Council Member, At-Large*  
Prince George's County Council

Hon. Calvin S. Hawkins, Jr.  
*Vice Chair & Member, At Large*  
Prince George's County Council

Robert E. Buchanan <i>President</i> 2030 Group	Elle De La Cancel <i>Central VA Grassroots Organizer</i> Chesapeake Climate Action Network	Michael Doyle <i>Founding Member</i> Alexandria Families for Safe Streets
Julie Coons <i>President and CEO</i> Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce	Joseph L Carter <i>Executive Vice President</i> Wells Fargo Bank	James L Durham <i>Chair</i> Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
JB Holston <i>Chief Executive Officer</i> Greater Washington Partnership	Celeste Chavis <i>Associate Professor</i> Morgan State University	Ari Eisenstadt <i>DC Conservation Advocate</i> Audubon Naturalist Society
Jack McDougle <i>President &amp; CEO</i> Greater Washington Board of Trade	Kim Coble <i>Executive Director</i> Maryland League of Conservation Voters	David Flanagan <i>President</i> Elm Street Development, Inc.
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Rev. David Bowers <i>Vice President and Mid-Atlantic Market Leader</i> Enterprise Community Partners	Kelsey Crane <i>Campaign and Policy Director</i> Sierra Club Virginia Chapter	Bethany Gregg <i>Co-Chair</i> Green Team, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Baltimore, MD
Jack Calhoun and John Clewett <i>Co-Chairs</i> Lewinsville Faith in Action	Doris Crouse-Mays <i>President</i> Virginia AFL-CIO	Denisse Guitarra <i>Maryland Conservation Advocate</i> Audubon Naturalist Society
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Karen Campblin <i>Co-Director</i> Green New Deal VA	Virginia Diamond <i>President</i> Northern Virginia Labor Federation, AFL-CIO	Faith B. Harris <i>Interim Co-Director</i> Virginia Interfaith Power & Light

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*Chair*  
Liveable Alexandria: Housing  
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Virginians for High Speed Rail

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Maryland Legislative Coalition

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*Land & Community Program  
Leader*  
Southern Environmental Law  
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