



# *Transit Watch:* Public Transit in Crisis



May 13, 2020

Friends,

*CalMatters* recently published a guest [commentary](#) by the California Transit Association's Executive Director, Joshua W. Shaw, about the “existential crisis” California’s public transit agencies face as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Excerpts from the commentary:

*“Collectively, California’s transit agencies will face approximately \$2 billion in lost fare revenue and new operational expenses alone due to the COVID-19 pandemic.”*

*“State and local sales tax revenues will plummet with a slowing economy, undercutting a key source of transit funding. Transit agencies in California rely more on sales tax funding for their core, non-fare-based revenue than do most agencies across the country.”*

*“Public transportation agencies are already suspending or dramatically curtailing much of their service... **These disruptions could become permanent without state action.**”*

*“It will likely become imperative that the state support local transit agencies further as part of the anticipated August budget revise – providing new funds to keep the doors open and the trains and buses running through the hard times to come.”*

*“Sustainable and available public transit is absolutely vital in this time of crisis, and also critical to helping our economy get back on track when life resumes to normal by getting millions to work, school, shopping, medical appointments and other obligations.”*

Read the full commentary in *CalMatters* here: [California Public Transit Services Face Existential Crisis with COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

For more information, please contact the California Transit Association at [COVID-19@caltransit.org](mailto:COVID-19@caltransit.org).

