



Transit Watch: Public Transit in Crisis



May 14, 2020

Today, Governor Gavin Newsom released his revised 2020-21 state budget proposal. **Joshua Shaw, Executive Director, California Transit Association**, issued this statement in response:

“Today’s budget reflects the tough times we’re facing, and California’s public transit agencies understand their operations are no exception. We applaud Governor Newsom for leading the effort to protect California’s citizens, to support our economy, and to propose the painful but needed spending cuts ensuring the state’s ability to still serve those most in need.

“The revised state budget proposal provides to local public transit agencies \$350 million less than projected in the proposed January budget, on top of the more than \$2 billion in collective losses agencies have already suffered at the local level since the pandemic began. These losses will only continue to grow.

“As ridership and revenues have fallen with the implementation of necessary stay at home orders, and due to significantly lower sales tax revenues on the horizon, public transit agencies face an existential threat. **The reality of permanent reductions and elimination of local public transit services loom large without additional financial assistance from our state and federal partners.**

“We are supporting a national call for additional federal transit relief funding from Congress. **It will also likely become imperative that the state support local transit agencies further, as part of the anticipated August budget revise –** providing funds to keep the doors open and the trains and buses running through the hard times to come.

“We understand there are serious and competing needs for limited state resources. **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**, because transit takes millions to work, school, shopping, medical appointments and other obligations.”

For more information, please contact the California Transit Association at COVID-19@caltransit.org.