



Transit Watch: Public Transit in Crisis



May 21, 2020

Friends,

Significant ridership and fare revenue declines due to the coronavirus pandemic, as most Californians responsibly shelter in place, threaten the viability and availability of transit services in the near- and long-term.

We intend *Transit Watch* to provide key stakeholders with up-to-date information about COVID-19 and its impact on public transit agencies and our communities that rely on transit:

Check [this page on our website](#) frequently for the latest information about COVID-19 impacts on public transit in your community.

- The site includes updated figures from our survey of public transit agencies showing ridership and revenue declines by agency, as well as other local information.
- We maintain a running, real-time summary list of the latest impacts to local agencies, culled from each day's headlines and agency press releases, by region, [located here](#).

Vanderbilt study predicts Bay Area traffic delays would increase significantly if transit use falls

- A new study from Vanderbilt University projects a dramatic rise in traffic in the Bay Area caused by a rush to single-occupancy vehicles after the shutdown. **It could potentially increase the morning commute alone by up to 42 minutes.**
- The study also found that Los Angeles would face significant increases in single-occupancy vehicle travel.
- Read more from San Francisco Chronicle: [The post-shutdown Bay Area commute may be hell](#)

Caltrain may consider full shutdown if unable to secure additional funding

- If Caltrain is unable to secure further federal funding or state assistance, a potential shutdown is a possibility.
- Caltrain relies on ticket fares to cover 70% of its operating costs, but since the Bay Area's shelter-in-place began, ticket sales have dropped 95%.
- Caltrain's monthly revenue has dropped roughly \$8 million.
- Read more from San Francisco Chronicle: [Caltrain may consider full shutdown if unable to secure additional funding](#)

To begin to come back from coronavirus, BART, Muni need everyone to wear masks

- BART and Muni are looking at mandatory face coverings as a key measure for encouraging increased ridership on public transit as shelter-in-place orders ease.
- Failure to consistently wear masks on public transit could lead to limiting ridership on buses and trains, which would mean less fare revenue, longer wait times and more reliance on cars.
- Read more from San Francisco Chronicle: [To begin to come back from coronavirus, BART, Muni need everyone to wear masks](#)

What to Know: Metro's Face Coverings Requirement Starts Monday

- On May 11, LA Metro, Amtrak, LA DASH, Cityride, and Commuter Express began requiring passengers to wear face coverings on public transit.
- Metro will also work to find ways to provide face coverings to riders, without using the agency's employee supply.
- Read more from KNBC-TV4 (NBC Los Angeles): [What to Know: Metro's Face Coverings Requirement Starts Monday](#)

MTS Shows Appreciation for Frontline Workers, Plans Return to Regular Service

- MTS is offering a total of \$3 million in bonuses to its frontline workers in appreciation for their work during the coronavirus.
- "At a time when they could have stayed home, the employees are out in the public dealing with their own problems at home with health care or health concerns, plus their child care concerns, ... as a thank you for all of that, and to kind of keep good will and morale through this period, we would like to offer up a one-time bonus." – CEO Sharon Cooney
- Read more from KPBS News: [MTS Offers Bonuses For Frontline Workers, Plans Return To Regular Service](#)

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