



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Contact:** Virginia Drake  
(916) 446-4656  
virginia@caltransit.org

## **California Transit Association Applauds House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for Providing \$30 Billion of COVID-19 Emergency Funding for Public Transit**

*Statement from California Transit Association Executive Director Michael Pimentel*

**SACRAMENTO** – “On behalf of the 85 transit and rail agency members of the California Transit Association and the millions of Californians who still rely on public transportation today, I commend the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure’s Budget Reconciliation Title for providing \$30 billion of COVID-19 relief funds for public transit. The extended duration of the COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating for public transit agencies throughout California and the nation, and these relief funds are vital to the industry’s survival. This commitment to public transit will help agencies avert workforce cuts and restore critical service that was reduced as agencies fought to remain operational in the face of dramatic revenue and ridership declines caused by the pandemic. The road to recovery is long, and we are just starting to realize the devastation wrought by this crisis, but we know that public transportation is vital to the continued economic recovery of the nation.

These funds will establish funding certainty to better allow transit agencies to navigate the crisis. Addressing our industry’s multiyear funding need now would also ensure that transit agencies can continue to make progress on implementing the safety measures and operational improvements that will allow us to build back better from the pandemic, as called for by the President.

We thank President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Secretary of Transportation Peter Buttigieg, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chair Peter DeFazio and transit champions in both chambers for their tireless efforts to ensure that the Budget Reconciliation bill provides \$30 billion in COVID-19 emergency funding for transit agencies today. This funding is critical to a balanced and equitable economic recovery, to our quality of life and to achieving our state’s ambitious environmental goals.”

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