

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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****Statement****

**California Transit Association Hails Senate’s Passage of the
American Rescue Plan Providing \$30 Billion in Critical
Funding Relief for Public Transit Agencies Nationwide, with
California Expected to Receive \$4 Billion of Package**

Statement from the Association’s Executive Director Michael Pimentel

SACRAMENTO – “This morning, the Senate voted to save public transit by passing the *American Rescue Plan*. If signed by President Biden, the bill would provide \$4 billion in emergency funding relief to California’s transit agencies.

Like other critical industries, public transit was impacted catastrophically by the COVID-19 pandemic. Faced with unprecedented budget deficits caused by depressed ridership, reduced sales tax and fare revenues, and the high cost of implementing health and safety measures designed to keep our workers and riders safe, transit agencies were forced at the start of the pandemic to slash service, delay capital improvements, and furlough employees. Thanks to two rounds of emergency funding relief and the tireless work of public transit workers across the country, transit agencies were able to keep the nation, including millions of essential workers, moving.

The *American Rescue Plan* provides an additional \$30 billion in funding relief to transit agencies nationwide, which will help them to better navigate the long recovery process through 2023. With this funding certainty, California’s transit agencies will be positioned to support the recovery of our state and nation to meet President Biden’s call to *Build Back Better*.

We thank the Administration and Congressional leaders, including President Joe Biden, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Alex Padilla, and California’s Congressional delegation for their tireless efforts to ensure that the *American Rescue Plan* includes robust funding to save public transit nationwide.

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. We look forward to President Biden signing this bill into law and delivering urgent relief to the American public and industries essential to our nation’s recovery as quickly as possible.

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Michael Pimentel is the executive director of the California Transit Association, a 501(c)(6) non-profit trade organization comprised of nearly 250 member organizations, including all of the state's largest urban transit operators, as well as dozens of transit agencies in suburban and rural areas. Its membership also extends to include commuter rail agencies, transit support groups, national and international transit suppliers, and government agencies. The Association is the leading advocate on behalf of public transit in California, representing transit's interests before the California State Legislature, the Governor and regulatory agencies on the local, state and federal levels.