



FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE July 21, 2020

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CALIFORNIA TRANSIT ASSOCIATION RELEASES “FUTURE OF TRANSIT” REPORT

Transit Agencies’ Report Prioritizes Rider and Workforce Safety as Agencies Recover Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

SACRAMENTO -- The California Transit Association today released its [“Transit Is Essential: Recommendations for the Future of Transit”](#) report. The report, which represents the culmination of two months of research, industry outreach and discussion by the Association’s 13-member COVID-19 Transit Crisis Relief Task Force, presents a series of important recommendations to California’s public transit agencies and state and federal lawmakers.

The release of the report comes at a time when California’s local public transit agencies are facing billions of dollars in lost revenues due to reduced ridership, declines in fare collection, and the erosion of tax revenues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. They simultaneously have incurred significant cost increases to ensure important safety measures that safeguard riders and workers. Transit agencies have warned state and federal lawmakers that they are facing an [existential threat](#) that jeopardizes the economic, social, and physical well-being of the communities in which they operate. If implemented, these recommendations would improve the safety, efficiency, and viability of transit operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

“Public transit agencies provide lifeline services for millions of Californians, including essential workers, underserved communities, and those who have no other transportation options,” said **Kate Breen, Chair of the California Transit Association’s Executive Committee**. “Our ‘Future of Transit’ report represents our agencies’ uncompromising commitment to rider and workforce safety and to the communities they serve as we work to address the enormous financial challenges created by the pandemic.”

“The ideas reflected in the ‘Future of Transit’ report represent the collective insights and expertise of transit professionals and industry stakeholders from throughout the state as we work to stabilize public transit in California,” said **Karen King, Chief Executive Officer of Golden Empire Transit District and Chair of the COVID-19 Transit Crisis Relief Task Force**. “The recommendations presented in the report expand on the various safety and operational measures transit agencies have already implemented in response to COVID-19. Additionally, these recommendations complement past and ongoing efforts by transit agencies to improve their service based on changing local demographics and other emerging trends affecting transit ridership.”

(more)

The report reflects a contemplative approach to service restoration, particularly in the areas with the greatest need, while also recommending a series of protective measures related to the use of personal protective equipment and the adoption of enhanced cleaning methods. Moreover, the report includes recommendations that could improve transit's efficiency, regain lost riders and better ensure that transit plays a key role in the state's recovery.

The 17 recommendations in the report fall into the categories of transit operations; technology; land use; and funding and policy.

The recommendations in the "Future of Transit" report will be shared with transit agencies throughout California and commended to the American Public Transportation Association's Mobility Recovery & Restoration Task Force as the best industry thinking from California, the state with the second highest transit ridership in the nation. The report will also be provided to the California State Legislature and the United States Congress.

Last month, the California Transit Association, on behalf of its more than 85 local public transit agency members, submitted a letter to Governor Newsom and state and federal lawmakers requesting at least [\\$3.1 billion in funding relief](#) this year to help prevent devastating permanent service reductions.

"This report illustrates the extraordinary efforts our public transit agencies are willing to make to restore service and how our request for emergency funding relief will improve public transit over the long-term and help the underserved and communities of color that rely on transit for survival," added **Joshua W. Shaw, Executive Director of the California Transit Association**.

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