



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

Virginia Drake
Public Affairs and Communications Director
California Transit Association
M: (914) 924-0120
Email: virginia@caltransit.org

****STATEMENT****

California Transit Association Applauds Newsom Administration's May Revision Budget Proposal

New Plan Prioritizes Investments in Public Transit That Will Help California Navigate Economic Recovery, Establish Long-Term Growth

Sacramento – The sweeping and significant investments unveiled over the last week by the Newsom Administration to financially uplift businesses, families, and workers devastated by the pandemic, boost California's public schools, shore up climate resilience, and address homelessness, culminated today with the release of the state's full May Revision budget proposal. The May Revision details investments, comprising the *California Comeback Plan*.

The California Transit Association issued the following statement on behalf of over 85 transit and rail agencies in California applauding the improved fiscal outlook for the state and the prioritization of public transit in the *California Comeback Plan*:

"Public transit is the cornerstone of California's comeback plan," said Kate Breen, Chair of California Transit Association and Director of Government Affairs for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency. "The unprecedented level of state investment proposed today for public transportation – including \$1.4 billion to accelerate our industry's transition to 100 percent zero-emission buses by 2040 – recognizes the unique role the transit sector will play in advancing the state's ambitious environmental goals, creating good paying California-based jobs, boosting economic growth, and building more equitable, resilient communities. We applaud Governor Newsom for his commitment to a recovery that benefits all Californians."

The investments proposed in the revised state budget that will propel the transformation of California's public transportation systems and the broader transportation network include:

- **Zero-Emission Buses and Trucks** – \$1.4 billion to demonstrate and purchase or lease "green" buses and trucks. (*Funding Source: \$1.3 billion in General Fund, \$87 billion in Air Pollution Control Fund*)
- **Priority Transit and Rail Projects** – \$1 billion for transit and rail projects statewide that improve rail and transit connectivity between state and regional/local services. (*Funding Source: \$1 billion in General Fund*)

- **Zero-Emission Rail and Transit Equipment Purchase and Infrastructure** – \$407 million to demonstrate and purchase or lease state-of-the-art clean bus and rail equipment and infrastructure that eliminate fossil fuel emissions and intercity rail and intercity bus frequencies. *(Funding Source: \$100 million in General Fund, \$280 million Public Transportation Account, and \$27 million in federal funds)*
- **Los Angeles Olympics** – \$1 billion to deliver critical projects in time for the 2028 Olympic Games. *(Funding Source: \$1 billion in General Fund)*
- **High Priority Grade Separations and Grade Crossing Improvements** – \$500 million to support critical safety improvements throughout the state. *(Funding Source: \$500 million in General Fund)*
- **High-Speed Rail** – \$4.2 billion to complete high-speed rail construction in the Central Valley, advance work to launch service between Merced and Bakersfield, advance planning and project design for the entire project, and leverage potential federal funds. *(Funding Source: \$4.2 billion in Proposition 1A)*
- **State Highway Rehabilitation and Local Roads and Bridges** – \$2 billion to support the advancement of priority State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects, Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) projects, and local road and bridge investments. *(Funding Source: \$1.1 billion in special funds, \$968 million in federal funds)*
- **Active Transportation** – \$500 million to General Fund to advance projects that increase the proportion of trips accomplished by walking and biking, increase the safety and mobility of non-motorized users, advance efforts to regional agencies to achieve GHG goals. *(Funding Source: \$500 million in General Fund)*

These investments are in addition to the \$3.2 billion in funding for zero-emission vehicle deployments proposed by Governor Newsom, which benefit public transit agencies and are supported by the state's Cap-and-Trade program.

“Coupled with the substantial increase in federal funding for zero-emission bus deployments, core transit and rail programs, and the buildout of our rail network proposed in the Biden-Harris Administration’s *American Jobs Plan*, California is poised to lead the country in a historic transportation reinvention that will power a stronger, cleaner economy nationwide, said Michael Pimentel, Executive Director of California Transit Association. “With the *California Comeback Plan*, Governor Newsom has communicated an ambitious vision for expanding California’s leadership on clean transportation. The investments he proposed today will deliver transformational change to the transportation sector and drive job creation.”

“The Association looks forward to enthusiastically supporting the Newsom Administration’s new budget proposal as it moves through the legislative process. Our organization is also providing policy guidance and recommendations to key Congressional leaders developing the Biden-Harris Administration’s *American Jobs Plan* as California and the nation work to deliver cleaner mobility options to millions of Americans.”

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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 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.

Kate Breen is Chair of the Association's Executive Committee and Director of Government Affairs for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency.