



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Executive

Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

October 16, 2020

The Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senate
10201 Martin Luther King, Jr. Hwy.
Suite 210
Bowie, Maryland 20720

Dear Senator Cardin:

On behalf of Prince George's County (the "County"), we write to you with regards to the urgent matter of funding for the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority ("WMATA"). Our County is home to over 60 Metrobus Lines and 15 Metrorail Stations, all of which are heavily used by our residents and visitors. Among these are thousands of essential workers who reside in the County, including many who work for WMATA and make it possible to transport residents and visitors in the Washington Metropolitan Region (the "Region").


Transit is a lifeline for our communities, enabling citizens to access the jobs, healthcare and critical services that support their families. The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted the transit agencies they depend on as ridership and revenue have plummeted, while significant new costs related to safety and protection have been encumbered.


The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"), passed in March of this year, provided a stop-gap to assist transit agencies in surviving these dramatic losses. However, the CARES Act funding is close to exhaustion. When the CARES Act funding is depleted, transit agencies will be forced into some combination of cutting services, laying off workers, or redistributing funds intended for repairs and maintenance. All these options will seriously harm the viability, safety and reliability of transit service in the short- and long-term. More importantly, they will hurt the riders, businesses and workers that depend on transit.

Nationally, transit agencies need some \$32 billion in emergency funds to avoid further impacts to services, job cuts and economic hardship. If Congress fails to act this month to provide this funding, it will deepen the economic pain already felt by millions throughout our Country. In this time of uncertainty, grief and loss, Congress must put aside their differences and work together to fund transit or we will emerge far weaker on the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a nation, we cannot recover without transit and on behalf of Prince George's County, we urge you to commit this critically needed funding. Our riders, economy and Region depend on it.

Sincerely,


Hon. Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive


Hon. Todd M. Turner
Council Chair

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Joanne C. Benson, Chair, Prince George's County Senate Delegation
The Honorable Erek Barron, Chair, Prince George's County House Delegation
The Honorable Calvin S. Hawkins, II, Vice-Chair, Prince George's County Council
The Honorable Mel Franklin, Member, Prince George's County Council
The Honorable Thomas E. Dernoga, Member, Prince George's County Council
The Honorable Deni L. Taveras, Member, Prince George's County Council
The Honorable Dannielle M. Glaros, Member, Prince George's County Council
The Honorable Jolene Ivey, Member, Prince George's County Council
The Honorable, Derrick Leon Davis, Member, Prince George's County Council
The Honorable Rodney C. Streeter, Member, Prince George's County Council
The Honorable Monique Anderson-Walker, Member, Prince George's County Council
The Honorable Sydney J. Harrison, Member, Prince George's County Council
Major F. Riddick, Jr., Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive
Floyd E. Holt, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive
Terry L. Bellamy, Director, Prince George's Department of Public Works and
Transportation
Martin L. Harris, Deputy Director, Prince George's Department of Public Works
and Transportation
Gwendolyn T. Clerkley, Deputy Director, Prince George's Department of Public Works
and Transportation
Gregory Slater, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation
Kevin Quinn, Administrator, Maryland Transit Administration