



Regional Transit

**Sacramento Regional
Transit District**
A Public Transit Agency
and Equal Opportunity Employer

Administrative Offices

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Sacramento, CA 95816
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Mailing Address

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SacRT Board of Directors

Chair, Steve Hansen
Sacramento City Council

Vice Chair, Steve Miller
Citrus Heights City Council

Linda Budge
Rancho Cordova City Council

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Board of Supervisors

Don Nottoli
Sacramento County
Board of Supervisors

Jay Schenirer
Sacramento City Council

Phil Serna
Sacramento County
Board of Supervisors

3/20/2020

Senator Jim Beall
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
State Capitol Rm. 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Jim Frazier
Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee
State Capitol Rm. 3091
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Sacramento Regional Transit and COVID 19

Dear Chairmen Beall and Frazier:

The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT), the largest public transit provider in the Capitol region, stands with many of our critical infrastructure partners as we continue to deliver essential public transportation services during these unprecedented times in response to the COVID 19 outbreak.

While our priority remains the safety and well-being of our customers and employees, SacRT, like many of our transit partners, face an alarming financial calamity as we've already seen a dramatic ridership decline. Bus and light rail ridership, like many other normal day-to-day activities across the country, has decreased over 60% as both local and state officials have ordered businesses closed and directed shelter-in-place orders to flatten the curve of COVID-19.

SacRT continues to operate service as a lifeline community mobility safety net, but our essential services depend on fare revenues, and state and local funding predominantly from sales tax proceeds. With sales taxes anticipated to dampen as normal life in America comes to a halt, compounded with extended periods of ridership loss and increased costs of sanitization and safety of our staff and vehicles, SacRT is facing a shortfall of \$83 million or more through September 2020.

While an immediate financial support is needed, we urge you to also consider a both short-term and long-term commitment in ensuring that public transportation continues to be accessed by many of our vulnerable and underserved communities. Administrative relief to ensure that decreased ridership does not negatively impact transit providers and other regulatory challenges must also be considered.

The need of SacRT is urgent, not just for those who depend on our services, but the thousands of families that our agency supports and employs. We respectfully ask the Legislature's consideration and assistance in these unprecedented times and look forward to working together to support the critical transportation needs and the public health and economy of our region.

Respectfully,

Henry Li
GM/CEO

cc: Senator Pan
Assemblymember McCarty
Assemblymember Cooper
Assemblymember Cooley
Assemblymember Kiley
Senator Nielsen