

Right now, public transportation is running during the Covid-19 emergency, supporting necessary trips during the "shelter in place" order. This is causing catastrophic drops in ridership and revenue.

- BART saw a 71% drop in ridership on Monday (3/16), which will see BART lose over \$7 million per week just from fares.
- Muni averaged an approximately 35-50% drop in ridership last week with \$1 million in lost revenue.
- Caltrain has seen a 90% drop in ticket sales, correlating with the drop in ridership which will cost the agency between \$1.6 and \$1.8 million per week.
- AC Transit, VTA, and other agencies are seeing similar drops.

Right now, the State of California and Congress are working on emergency relief funding to deal with the catastrophic damage being caused by the Covid-19 crisis. You have a chance to take action right now to save public transportation emergency.

- On March 16, 2020 the California State Legislature passed Assembly Bill 89 and Senate Bill 89, which are now awaiting the Governor's signature. This funding would authorize \$500 million immediately and up to \$1 billion in total to be used at the Governor's discretion with the purpose of providing assistance related to the impacts of COVID-19.
- The United States Congress is currently working on a bill to provide relief to workers and business and to help stimulate the US economy.

Jurisdictions across the Bay Area normally collect \$85 million in fare revenue per month, the vast majority of which is expected to be lost in the foreseeable future. Transit agencies in California also rely very heavily on sales tax revenues, which are expected to see a very steep decline; Bay Area public transit agencies could see a loss of sales tax revenue as large as \$300 million just this fiscal year (until June 30<sup>th</sup>).

We are asking our state and federal governments to support funding for Bay Area public transit operators during this time of critical need.

1 [Sign the two petitions](#)

2 [Call and email your state legislators:](#)

3 [Call and email your representative in Congress:](#)

4 Call and email Senators [Feinstein](#) and [Harris](#):

Background information for your calls:

COVID-19 represents a threat to the health and wellbeing of all Californians, particularly our vulnerable and elderly neighbors. Our public health interventions to slow the spread of infections are necessary and welcome. Unfortunately, these same precautions, such as social distancing and sheltering in place, threaten the existence of public transit systems in the Bay Area that continue to function, as they are considered essential services that are transporting nurses, social service workers, grocery store employees, and the people who keep our society running during these trying times.

On March 17, 2020, the “shelter in place” order began in nearly every county in the Bay Area. This order

assumes that public transit will still be available for those requiring “Essential Travel,” which includes critical business and government functions. This means that even during the most extreme social distancing measures, our region needs safe, functioning and reliable public transit. Given our current conditions, that is not possible without additional funding.

With the "shelter in place" order now mandating that almost everyone stay home, this week and the following weeks are expected to see even lower ridership and more fare revenue lost. Transit operators have no idea how long the COVID-19 crisis will last, or even how long shelter in place orders will remain in effect.

Please sign the petitions to call for our regional institutions and state and local governments to support public transit, its riders and operators with emergency fiscal stimulus as quickly as possible.

**Thank you so much and please stay safe!**