Dear APTA Members,

As we observe this year’s “Infrastructure Week” (Sept. 14 - 20), APTA continues to advocate for at least $32 billion in emergency COVID-19 funding, as well as a one-year extension of the FAST Act before it expires on Sept. 30. Below are details on these and other activities to serve our members.

Advocacy & Media

- **Emergency Funding and FAST Act Extension**
  APTA helped lead an effort to secure the support of almost 90 surface transportation, business, and labor organizations on a Sept. 9 letter urging Senate and House leaders to pass legislation before Sept. 30 that includes:

  - A one-year extension of the current surface transportation law with increased investment levels;
  
  - Provisions to ensure solvency of the Highway Trust Fund at least through the one-year extension; and
  
  - Emergency federal funding of $32 billion for public transit agencies and $37 billion for state DOTs.

  This legislation will support the operations of transit agencies, continue critically-needed transit programs, increase the safety and efficiency of the surface transportation system, and help spur America’s economic recovery.

- **APTA Surveys: COVID-19 is Causing Transit Agencies to Reduce Service and Businesses to Cut Jobs**
  APTA held a national press conference this week to promote the need for Congress to approve an additional $32 billion in emergency assistance for the public transit industry. At the event, we released the results of two surveys that found if our industry does not receive this funding:
- 6 in 10 public transit systems will need to reduce service and furlough employees in the coming months; and

- Nearly half of public transit industry businesses (47 percent) expect to lay off employees, and 31 percent are concerned they may go out of business.

APTA Chair Nuria Fernandez and I were joined by former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego, along with Paul J. Ballard, CEO and general manager, Denver Regional Transportation District; Chris Boylan, director, governmental & strategic partnerships, The General Contractors Association of NY, Inc.; Ray Melleady, executive vice president, USSC Group; Steve Poftak, general manager, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority; Kevin Quinn, administrator, Maryland DOT Transit Administration; and Chris Stoddart, president, New Flyer.

View the transit agency survey here and the business member survey here.

APTA Events

- **APTAtech, September 9 - 10**
  More than 400 people attended the two-day virtual APTAtech conference last week. The Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (CapMetro), Austin, TX, held a virtual tour of its facilities and of Austin. APTA Chair Nuria Fernandez, Vice Chair Jeff Nelson, and I welcomed attendees, and CapMetro President and CEO Randy Clarke discussed innovative initiatives at the agency.

- **APTAU Perspectives Webinar: Transit, Cities, and a New Mobility (presented by Lyft)**
  New York City DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg was interviewed by TransLink CEO Kevin Desmond about the actions her agency is taking to reduce congestion, advance social equity, integrate transit bike lanes, and repurpose curb space for transit. A recording of the Sept. 15 webinar can be found here.

- **TRANSScend, October 21 - 22**
  Make plans to join us for TRANSScend – APTA's largest, new, virtual event about major issues for the year ahead. Topics include the long-term impacts of COVID-19, effective ways to bring riders back, social equity as a transit priority, the changing landscape of cities, and more. This is an excellent opportunity to hear from leaders, exchange ideas, and connect with peers. Visit TRANSScend.

- **The Transit Authority Podcast – On Demand**
  Listen to the latest episode of The Transit Authority, APTA’s official podcast,
with our guest Tim Chan, Group Manager -- Station Area Planning at the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District, who discusses initiatives and strategies to address homelessness in public transit, with special focus on COVID-19’s impact on the issue. Listen to the podcast here.

Infrastructure Week and APTA

- **APTA Chair Addresses National League of Cities**
  As part of Infrastructure Week, APTA Cahir Nuria Fernandez participated in a discussion sponsored by the National League of Cities titled, “What Happens Locally if Federal Transportation Programs Expire.” Joining Nuria were U.S. Representative Salud Carbajal (D-CA, 24th District), who serves on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee; Councilman Dan Fowler of Kansas City, MO, who chairs NLC’s Transportation & Infrastructure Services Committee; and Ed Mortimer of the U.S. Chamber.

- **United for Infrastructure**
  This coalition, which includes the AFL-CIO, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Brookings Institution, American Society of Civil Engineers, Business Roundtable, Value of Water Campaign, among others, hosted its annual national week of infrastructure education and advocacy. This year’s theme is #RebuildBetter. My video message about public transportation’s infrastructure needs and our industry’s role in a national economic recovery will be posted at www.unitedforinfrastructure.org.

- **OneRail Coalition**
  The OneRail Coalition, of which APTA is a member, and the Association of American Railroads (AAR) released a poll that found 75 percent of Americans believe more personal travel should be shifting to passenger rail and public transit to address the impacts of transportation on climate change. Also, 81 percent support more federal funding to address railroad crossing safety.

**APTA Report: No Direct Link Between COVID-19 and Public Transportation**

APTA publicized a new report last week that shows there is no direct correlation between using public transportation and the transmission of COVID-19. The study, which analyzed public transit use in multiple US and international cities this summer, also found that there will be long-term negative health consequences if large numbers of people switch from public transit to private cars. Read the report here.

**Health & Safety Commitments Program**
Since its public launch just last week, more than 130 public transit agencies have signed up to participate in APTA’s “Health & Safety Commitments Program,” our industry’s pledge to protect the health and safety of our employees and passengers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commitments program was developed by the Mobility Recovery & Restoration Task Force. Learn more about the program here.

With best wishes,

Paul P. Skoutelas
President and CEO

Sent to you by the American Public Transportation Association
1300 I St. NW, Ste. 1200 E, Washington, DC 20005
www.apta.com

Click here to unsubscribe