



CEO Letter to All APTA Members

October 15, 2020

Dear APTA Members,

This week, we have been preparing for vitally important meetings of the Board of Directors (Oct. 20) and TRANScend, our first-ever virtual year-end event (Oct. 21-22). Please watch for *Passenger Transport's* special TRANScend Conference issue, which includes a two-page spread on APTA's Annual Award winners and a commentary by APTA Chair Nuria Fernandez about her 2021 priorities.

TRANScend

Six days from today is the start of the TRANScend virtual conference. Click [here](#) to see the schedule of speakers and sessions, learn about the APTA Awards, and register to attend. TRANScend will focus on the biggest issues facing public transit. Topics include the long-term impacts of COVID-19, bringing riders back, putting equity in the forefront, the changing landscape of cities, and policing in a new era. Plus, we'll hear from keynote speakers Tony Seba and Eddie Glaude Jr.

Advocacy

- **Yesterday, APTA released a [statement](#) expressing strong opposition to restrictive eligibility criteria** for COVID-19 Transit Research Demonstration Grants. FTA announced it will consider applications in accordance with White House guidance that prohibits federal funds to “anarchist jurisdictions.”

According to the Administration, New York, NY, Portland, OR, and Seattle, WA are “anarchist jurisdictions.” These grants are critical for public transit systems that are undertaking extraordinary efforts to safeguard riders and employees from the coronavirus, while facing unprecedented budget pressures. See the APTA statement and fact sheet [here](#).

- **APTA continues to aggressively advocate for \$32 billion in additional COVID-19 emergency funding.** These funds are part of a House-passed \$2.2 trillion package called “The Heroes Act.” While prospects for a House-

Senate-Administration agreement appear unlikely before Nov. 3, we continue to push for this funding in any COVID-19 or funding legislation. We remain committed to this issue after the Nov. 3 election in a “lame-duck” session of Congress – and beyond, if necessary. See the *Washington Post* article with my quote [here](#).

Recent Events

- **Oct. 6: “Cybersecurity Risks and Implications for Public Sector Agencies and Defense-in-Depth Strategies.”** APTA Vice Chair Jeff Nelson, General Manager of MetroLink, introduced this webinar, which was a joint event of APTA and the National League of Cities.
- **Oct. 6-8: FTA’s Rail Transit Agency (RTA)-State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA) Conference.** APTA’s Director of Safety Brian Alberts made a presentation on “Building Back Confidence in Transit After COVID-19”. Approximately 400 people took part in the virtual conference.
- **Oct. 8: Emerging Leaders Program Class of 2020 Webinar.** “Transit Stop, Collaborate, and Listen: Modernizing Transit Stops.” The full list of Emerging Leaders webinars can be found [here](#).
- **Oct. 13: BMBG Meeting.** APTA Chair Nuria Fernandez and I kicked off the meeting and thanked business members for their support of such efforts as virtual Washington Fly-Ins, research, and advocacy for emergency funding.
- **Oct. 14: National Association of Black Women in Construction Luncheon.** APTA General Counsel Linda Ford addressed the group, which helps create jobs and build better communities through its business partnerships.

Future Events

- **Oct. 21-22: [TRANScend Conference](#)**
- **Oct. 23: PennTRAIN Panel Webinar** titled “Safety in Uncertain Times: Civil Unrest, De-escalation, and Tips from Experts and Experiences.” Friday, Oct. 23, 1:00 - 2:30 pm ET.
- **Oct. 29: Innovations in Mobility Webinar** titled “Marin’s Connect2Transit-Combining Services in a Single Platform.” Thursday, Oct. 29, 3:00 - 3:45 pm ET. An offering of APTAU, presented by Uber | Routematch. Register

[here.](#)

- **Nov. 17-18: APTA Mid-Year Safety Seminar / TRB Safety & Security Conference.** Planning is underway for this event, which includes sessions on Safety Management Systems, PTASPs, cybersecurity, homelessness, and COVID-19 response and recovery. Register for the conference early [here.](#)

Association Business

- **APTA's Finance Committee** met on Oct. 13 and Secretary/Treasurer Freddie Fuller briefed committee members on APTA's financials through the year end of the FY 2020. CFO John Henry and I reported on the financial impact of COVID-19 on APTA's operations and the FY 2021 Budget. The committee discussed options to mitigate the revenue shortfall facing APTA.
- **APTA's Executive Committee** met on Oct. 14 to discuss the association's financial outlook through 2021 and beyond. Committee members are committed to ensuring APTA remains responsive to the changing economic and social needs of our members.

APTA-CTAA Vendor List

Last week, we updated the APTA-CTAA COVID-19 [vendor list](#) and posted it on APTA's website. More than 75 business members are included on the list, which is widely publicized by FTA.

Health & Safety Commitments Program

Nearly 200 public transit agencies have signed up to participate in APTA's Health & Safety Commitments Program, our industry's pledge to protect transit riders and workers from the spread of COVID-19. The program was developed by the Mobility Recovery & Restoration Task Force. Learn more [here.](#)

With best wishes,



Paul P. Skoutelas
President and CEO

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