



Gary Blazinsky
President
Harford Transit LINK

March 23, 2020

Kevin Cerrone
Vice President
Washington County Transit

[Representative] [FIRST LAST]
U.S. House of Representatives / U.S. Senate
[Office Address]
Washington, DC 20515

Rob Hart
Treasurer
Worcester County COA

[TITLE] [LAST NAME],

Sandy Wobbleton
Secretary
Calvert County Transportation

I write to you on behalf of the Transportation Association of Maryland's (TAM) members. TAM's rural, small city, specialized and NEMT operators — who collectively serve thousands of Marylanders every day — are experiencing unprecedented challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Laura Bristow
Director
Action in Maturity

Rick Gordon
Director
City of Annapolis DOT

As congress takes up Phase 3 of Coronavirus Relief Legislation, TAM and its members ask that you consider the following emergency supplemental appropriations. These funds will allow TAM members to (1) recover quickly from massive losses of farebox and contract revenues; (2) afford ongoing cleaning/protection equipment needs and staffing; (3) maintain the economic and physical health of vital front-line employees; and, (4) shift many of their services to life-sustaining dialysis, chemotherapy and other non-emergency medical trips that must continue to occur and adding a significant increase in home delivered meals, care and prescriptions trips.

Semia Hackett
Director
Prince George's County DPW&T

Dorothy Hersey
Director
Towson University

Suzanne Kalmbacher
Director
Cecil County Transit

Will Kenlaw
Director
Montgomery County Transit

For rural and tribal public transit operations funded through Section 5311, we request a \$300 million emergency supplemental appropriation to replace lost farebox and contract revenues, lost payroll for vital rural transit front-line employees and direct cleaning and equipment expenses dealing with the pandemic. For small-urban transit systems funded through Section 5307 (those providing service in areas of between 50,000 and 200,000 population) we request a \$500 million emergency supplemental appropriation to replace lost farebox and contract revenues, lost payroll for vital rural transit front-line employees and

Jim Martin
Director
American Bus Sales

Travis Johnston
Ex-Officio
Maryland Transit Administration

John Duklewski
Executive Director



direct cleaning and equipment expenses dealing with the pandemic. For specialized transit services for older adults and people with disabilities and funded through Section 5310, as well as non-emergency medical transportation services, services for veterans and other specialized transit operations, we request an emergency supplemental appropriation of approximately \$150 million to augment currently appropriated Section 5310 funding in FY 2020, with the specific provision that these supplemental funds be used to cover service contracts and operating assistance, and are not intended for the acquisition of buses, vans or other rolling stock. All of these figures are based on data collected nationally from Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) members as well as discussions with nearly 600 nationwide transit agencies in a series of Town Hall webinars conducted on March 18, 2020. These calculations run through the end of the current fiscal year (Sept. 30, 2020).

TAM members, all across the state, have long provided cost-effective and efficient community and public transportation to some of the most difficult to serve areas of the country, providing trips for at-risk passenger populations to life-sustaining nonemergency medical appointments. Our rural and NEMT members' transportation services have long allowed older adults and people with disabilities to remain safely in their homes. Our small-urban members provide high volumes of fixed-route transit that dramatically reduces congestion and pollution while increasing mobility in their cities. We will need these systems throughout the current crisis in myriad ways, as well as each to quickly revive full service when the pandemic subsides. Thank you for considering this request in Phase 3 of Coronavirus Response Legislation and I am happy to answer any questions at jduklewski@taminc.org or 410-553-4245.

Sincerely,

John Duklewski
Executive Director