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CONTACT:

[Matt Friedman](#), NVTC
571-457-9516

NVTC ASKS CONGRESS FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT AGENCIES

Virginia's Commonwealth Transportation Board takes swift first step

Arlington, Va. - The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission today joined with the [American Public Transportation Association](#) (APTA) and [Transportation for America](#) in calling for emergency financial help for public transit agencies due to the COVID-19 virus. This federal investment is necessary to address the major financial and operational challenges faced by the public transit industry as they address declining revenues and worker protections, while continuing to provide a vital service for many communities.

This request for federal funding is necessary to supplement the swift response from Virginia's [Commonwealth Transportation Board](#) (CTB) on March 17th to provide \$11 million in additional operating funding to Virginia's transit agencies through the Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

The \$11 million equals one-month of statewide operating revenues currently allocated to the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund. The funding, allocated to local public transit agencies by formula, will be available by early April. Funding is available for to Northern Virginia public transit operators, including ART, DASH, VRE, Fairfax Connector, Omniride/PRTC, CUE and Loudoun County transit. These additional funds are not available to WMATA.

"We thank the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public transportation for this swift action, which will help stabilize transit operators providing essential service," said NVTC Chair Katie Cristol. "However, we recognize that this is only a down payment on the losses that our local transit agencies will experience. We need a federal response to address this crisis."

APTA specifically calls for an additional \$12.875 billion for public transit to offset direct costs and revenue losses of COVID-19 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. These funds are necessary to maintain essential services, including providing public transportation to health care workers, Medicaid recipients who receive non-emergency medical transportation, and law enforcement personnel. Without these emergency funds, public transit agencies may be required to suspend services.

The APTA request of \$12.875 billion will offset the following costs and losses:

- Direct Costs: \$1.75 billion. Based on preliminary results of the APTA survey, 98% of public transit agencies have increased direct costs because of COVID-19, such as cleaning vehicles and facilities.
- Farebox Revenue Loss: \$6.0 billion. APTA anticipates a 75% loss of farebox revenue over the remaining six months of FY 2020 (total annual revenue: \$16.1 billion)
- Dedicated Sales Tax Revenue Loss: \$4.875 billion. APTA anticipates a 75% loss of dedicated sales tax revenue over next six months (total annual revenue: \$13 billion)
- Restart Costs: \$250 million

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