



March 20, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader, United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader, United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the Local Officials in Transportation (LOT) Coalition, we would like to thank Congress for your swift leadership in passing H.R. 6074, the *Coronavirus Preparedness & Response Supplemental Appropriations Act* and H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*. In conjunction with President Trump's National Emergency Declaration, these legislative efforts will provide critical resources and administrative flexibilities to address the public health and economic crisis facing our nation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Reports from the local level indicate that cascading COVID-19 economic impacts will require additional action from Congress, and we believe a strong intergovernmental partnership is key to a successful national recovery. The LOT Coalition strongly encourages Congress to include local governments as partners for recovery in the Phase 3 economic package. Local governments are the frontlines of our nation's local public health emergency response and overall public safety efforts. As committed public servants with significant safety responsibilities, we are tasked with moving people and freight, responding to emergencies, and maintaining the highest levels of safety for our residents and those who travel through our communities every day. As you continue to develop legislation that would address the economic impacts of the coronavirus, we request that you consider the following:



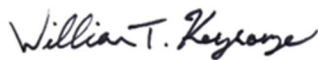
- 1) To quickly respond and provide flexible funds to restore transportation services in communities, **Congress should provide significant additional resources through the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (23 U.S.C., Section 133) under the federal-aid highway program and the public transportation program, and remove match requirements to ensure 100 percent of federal investments reach communities where needs are based.**
- 2) To ensure swift delivery and use of funds, **funding should be distributed using the formulas and sub-allocation procedures under 23 U.S.C., Section 133.** It is important to maintain current apportionment mechanisms for simplicity of distribution to those responsible for implementing the programs.



- 3) Finally, to ensure that state and local governments do not need to set-aside state or local funds that would otherwise be used to keep people on the job, continue services, or pay businesses for services and goods, consider provisions to **accelerate the reimbursement/payment process of the federal transportation programs.**

As we confront the many challenges associated with responding to COVID-19, local governments are committed to working with both Congress and the Administration to advance legislation that assists with the mitigation of this crisis and its widespread economic impact on our nation.

Regards,



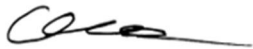
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