CORPUS CHRISTI REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

602 N. Staples, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401 | p. 361-289-2712 | f. 361-903-3578 | www.ccrta.org

July 24, 2020

Dear Senator Cornyn,

On behalf of the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA), its 350 employees and five million plus riders, I would like to thank you for supporting the critically needed funding for public transportation. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act is providing a crucial lifeline for CCRTA.

Before COVID-19's impact, CCRTA ridership was more than 18,000 daily. Today, our ridership average is 6,500 per day, a major hit to CCRTA's financial health. We appreciate the support of more than $16 million included in the CARES Act, which we've used to maintain services that transports riders within our community that have been negatively impacted during this economic downturn. We provide transportation to essential workers and dependent riders, like Sylvia H., who is an essential health caregiver to the elderly. She utilizes public transportation every day to care for her home bound patients throughout the community.

$9.5 million of the CARES Act has ensured that we avoid any layoff of our essential workforce and maintain operational services. In addition, $3.8 million is being used to provide paratransit services to riders affected by disabilities, including the elderly and veterans that need curb side services to dialysis or a doctor's appointment.

In addition, we have procured $1.4 million in needed PPE, cleaning equipment, operator barriers, employee workplace shields and hospital grade cleaning supplies to help protect employees, riders, and community members from COVID-19. These funds have ensured that our fleet continues to run and allows us to deep clean, and disinfect our system daily.

As the next COVID-19 recovery package is negotiated, CCRTA encourages the Senate to support additional supplemental funding for public transportation. The recent funding of CARES Act Section 5307, Urbanized Area Apportionments, worked well for an agency of our size and scope, and was straightforward to process.

If CCRTA could be provided with an additional $16 million dollars, it would allow the organization to maintain a state of good repair, and avoid layoffs of our workforce and 100-150 subcontractors. Through a sustained workforce, our community can maintain the efficiency of service, jobs, and transportation while avoiding the economic repercussions that would come from loss of jobs or services.

Additional funding would also allow CCRTA to continue to provide the needed resources to

maintain a safe and clean fleet for the dependent riders, employees and front line workers that rely on us every day.

Supplemental funding is pivotal to the CCRTA and our service area's recovery. We appreciate your leadership during these difficult times, and are grateful for your continued advocacy on behalf of public transportation, including CCRTA. Please let us know if CCRTA can provide you or your office with any assistance during this time.

Sincerely,

Eddie Martinez
Board of Directors Chair
CCRTA

Jorge Cruz-Aedo
Chief Executive Officer
CCRTA