

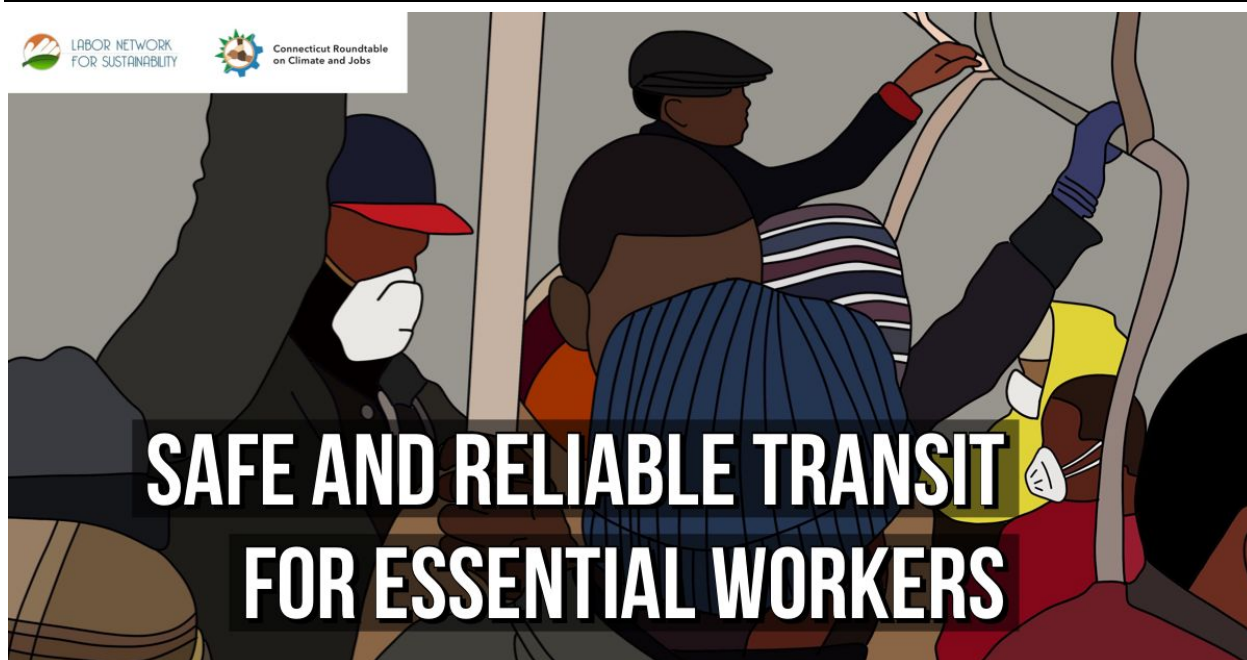


# Transit Equity

## Letter to Congress | Action Toolkit

[#TransitEquity](#) [#EarthDay2MayDay](#)

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## Contact Info

**Organizing:** [Basav Sen](#), Institute of Policy Studies; [Michael Leon Guerrero](#), Labor Network for Sustainability

**Social Media:** [Leo Blain](#), Labor Network for Sustainability; [Taylor Mayes](#), Connecticut Roundtable for Climate and Jobs; [Crystal Greer](#), NAACP Georgia; [Akshai Singh](#), Sunrise Movement, Cleveland; [Eboni Preston](#), NAACP Georgia; [Sarah Gertler](#), Institute for Policy Studies

**Website Communications:** [Judy Asman](#) Labor Network for Sustainability,

**Media Outreach:** [Olivia Alperstein](#), Institute for Policy Studies; [Judy Asman](#), Labor Network for Sustainability

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## About This Campaign

The Labor Sustainability Network has organized more than 50 unions and grassroots organizations and coalitions in the public transit and environmental justice movements to [sign a letter urging Congress](#) to provide more funding for transit agencies and to cover hazard pay, costs for personal protective equipment (PPE), onsite COVID-19 testing and treatment at work locations.

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## Background: Key Points From [The Letter](#)

- Public transit provides a lifeline to communities in crisis. Much as water, electricity, sanitation, and food distribution services are essential to maintain during the pandemic, we must keep buses, subways, and other forms of transit running safely. Essential workers such as doctors, nurses, and sanitation workers must get to their life saving work.
- Transit systems nationwide are under severe financial stress because of the pandemic. They are incurring additional expenditures for frequent sanitization of handrails, benches, seats, and other surfaces that employees and passengers touch frequently.
- In many transit systems, service has been cut back, leading to overcrowding on buses and at bus stops. This is a dangerous situation during the pandemic. Transit systems must be able to run at whatever frequency is needed to allow all workers and passengers to maintain the medically recommended safe distance. Lack of funding shouldn't be an excuse to endanger public health, and the federal government must step in to provide the entirety of the additional funding transit agencies need to maintain free service at the required frequency to avoid overcrowding and allow all system operators and users to maintain social distancing.
- We commend the inclusion of \$25 billion in emergency funding for transit in the CARES Act, but that is insufficient to deal with the scale of the crisis. We strongly urge you to reach out to transit agencies across the country to determine their revenue shortfalls and additional funding needs for safe operation of essential transit service (including paratransit), and provide the needed funding on an emergency basis to keep transit systems running as an essential lifeline during the coronavirus emergency.

## What You Can Do Right Now

- [Amplify on Social Media >>](#)
- Remember the Fallen
  - [Fallen Members from ATU >>](#)
- Link to the LNS Action Page from your Website



## Intro Copy for Your Website

*The Labor Sustainability Network has organized more than 50 unions and grassroots organizations and coalitions in the public transit and environmental justice movements to sign a letter urging Congress to provide more funding for transit agencies and to cover hazard pay, costs for personal*

*protective equipment (PPE), onsite COVID-19 testing and treatment at work locations.*

*Join the action. [Link to Website](#)*

## Signers of the Letter

1. [350.org](#)
2. [350 Eugene](#)
3. [350 Maine](#)
4. [350 New Orleans](#)
5. [350PDX](#)
6. [350 Philadelphia](#)
7. [350 Seattle](#)
8. [350 Spokane](#)
9. [Agricultural Missions](#)
10. [Amalgamated Transit Union \(ATU\)](#)
11. [Amalgamated Transit Union \(ATU\) Local 697](#)
12. [Active Transportation Alliance](#)
13. [Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO](#)
14. [Best Friends of Lowcountry Transit, Inc., South Carolina](#)
15. [Better Bus Coalition, Cincinnati](#)
16. [Black Workers for Justice](#)
17. [Bronx Climate Justice North](#)
18. [Build A Movement 2020](#)
19. [Call to Action Colorado](#)
20. [CASA](#)
21. [Catholic Network US](#)

22. [Center for Biological Diversity](#)
23. [Clean Water Action](#)
24. [Clevelanders for Public Transit](#)
25. [Climate Hawks Vote](#)
26. [Climate Jobs PDX](#)
27. [Climate Justice Alliance](#)
28. [Coalition for Smarter Growth](#)
29. [Columbus Association for Transit](#)
30. [Connecticut Roundtable for Climate and Jobs](#)
31. [CTLCVEF Climate Action Team](#)
32. [Democratic Socialists of America East Bay Chapter](#)
33. [Demos](#)
34. [Earth Ethics Inc.](#)
35. [Earthworks](#)
36. [Elders Climate Action](#)
37. [Food & Water Action](#)
38. [Friends of the Earth U.S.](#)
39. [Georgia Stand-Up](#)
40. [Green Latinos](#)
41. [Greenpeace USA](#)
42. [Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program](#)
43. [Jobs to Move America](#)
44. [Jobs With Justice](#)
45. [Labor Network for Sustainability](#)
46. [League of Conservation Voters](#)
47. [MARTA Army](#)
48. [NAACP](#)
49. [Nuclear Information and Resource Service](#)
50. [Oil Change International](#)
51. [Our Children's Trust Colorado](#)
52. [Philly Transit Riders Union](#)
53. [Pittsburghers for Public Transit](#)
54. [Power Shift Network](#)
55. [Progressive Democrats of America](#)
56. [Public Citizen](#)
57. [Rainforest Action Network](#)
58. [RapidShift.net](#)
59. [Sierra Club](#)
60. [Southern Oregon Climate Action Now](#)
61. [Sunrise Movement](#)
62. [Sustaining Way](#)
63. [Taproot Sanctuary](#)
64. [The Democracy Collaborative](#)

- 65. [The Rusty Anvil](#)
- 66. [The Wilderness Society](#)
- 67. [TransFormation Alliance](#)
- 68. [Transport Hartford Academy at the Center for Latino Progress](#)
- 69. [Transport Workers Union \(TWU\)](#)
- 70. [Transportation for America](#)
- 71. [Tri-State Transportation Campaign](#)
- 72. [United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America \(UE\)](#)
- 73. [WRTA Zero Fare Coalition \(Worcester, MA\)](#)

## News Release

[Get the News Release >>](#)

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## Hashtags

[\*\*#TransitEquity #EarthDay2MayDay #United4Workers\*\*](#)

## Interview Clip: Sherry Williams, Georgia Standup



[Click to share Sherry's and Leo's video >>](#)

## Sample Tweets and Posts

THEME: #CrowdedBus

### Featured Graphic



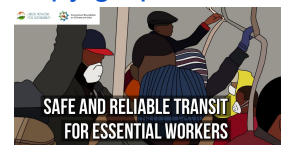
### Facebook

Essential workers are never going to stop being essential, and they will never stop needing public transit to do their jobs. If we are to keep our grocery stores, hospitals, fire departments, and other essential services open, then we must ensure that those of us who need public transit are able to access it safely and reliably.



That means keeping public transit routes running at normal capacity. Cutting public transit means that people will be packed together on fewer buses.

It also means ensuring that public transit workers have appropriate protections to avoid catching or spreading COVID-19. Public transit workers and advocates have identified PPE, back door boarding, and paid sick leave as three of their biggest priorities.

[Copy graphic >](#)





	<p>To learn more about what kind of support transit workers need, check out:</p> <p><a href="http://www.labor4sustainability.org/covid19/">www.labor4sustainability.org/covid19/</a> and scroll down to “Transit Equity and COVID-19”</p>	
Instagram	<p>Essential workers are never going to stop being essential, and they will never stop needing public transit to do their jobs. If we are to keep our grocery stores, hospitals, fire departments, and other essential services open, then we must ensure that those of us who need public transit are able to access it safely and reliably.</p> <p>That means keeping public transit routes running at normal capacity. Cutting public transit means that people will be packed together on fewer buses.</p> <p>It also means ensuring that public transit workers have appropriate protections to avoid catching or spreading COVID-19. Public transit workers and advocates have identified PPE, back door boarding, and paid sick leave as three of their biggest priorities.</p> <p>To learn more about what kind of support transit workers need, check out:</p> <p><a href="http://www.labor4sustainability.org/covid19/">www.labor4sustainability.org/covid19/</a> and scroll down to “Transit Equity and COVID-19”</p>	<p><a href="#">Copy graphic &gt;</a></p> 
Twitter	<p>If we are to keep our grocery stores, hospitals, fire departments, etc functioning, then we must ensure that those who need public transit are able to access it safely+reliably.</p>	<p><a href="#">Copy graphic &gt;</a></p> 

	That means PPE for transit workers and no decrease in service. Less service=people packed together!	
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## THEME: #EarthDay (for Workers)

### Featured Graphic



### Facebook

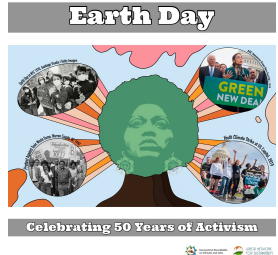
Unprecedented times demand unprecedented solidarity.


This April 22nd is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. It is a momentous milestone, but it is overshadowed by the immense challenge of the COVID-19 outbreak we are facing. We will not celebrate Earth Day as we are used to, but that does not mean that our collective power in the labor/climate movement is at all weakened.

In fact, the labor/climate movement is perhaps at its strongest right now. Unions and environmental groups are getting the job done where others can't. Members of SMART have produced over a million metal nose strips for masks and given them away free to frontline workers. Dozens of environmental

[Copy graphic >](#)



	<p>groups have signed onto letters to the White House and Congress demanding necessary health and economic protections for the working people keeping our society functioning. Unions and environmental groups are providing the support for workers that the government isn't.</p> <p>As individuals, we will not be together on Earth Day as we are used to. As a movement fighting for and achieving social, economic, and environmental justice, though, we are very much together. We will continue to be together when we get through all of this, and we will be more powerful than ever before.</p>	
Instagram	<p>Unprecedented times demand unprecedented solidarity.</p> <p>This April 22nd is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. It is a momentous milestone, but it is overshadowed by the immense challenge of the COVID-19 outbreak we are facing. We will not celebrate Earth Day as we are used to, but that does not mean that our collective power in the labor/climate movement is at all weakened.</p> <p>In fact, the labor/climate movement is perhaps at its strongest right now. Unions and environmental groups are getting the job done where others can't. Members of SMART have produced over a million metal nose strips for masks and given them away free to frontline workers. Dozens of environmental groups have signed onto letters to the White House and Congress demanding necessary health and economic protections for the working people keeping our society functioning. Unions and environmental groups are providing the support for workers that the government isn't.</p>	<p><a href="#">Copy graphic &gt;</a></p> 

	<p>As individuals, we will not be together on Earth Day as we are used to. As a movement fighting for and achieving social, economic, and environmental justice, though, we are very much together. We will continue to be together when we get through all of this, and we will be more powerful than ever before.</p>	
Twitter	<p>We won't be celebrating the 50th anniversary of Earth Day together as we are used to, but that does not mean we are any less powerful.</p> <p>This Earth day is marked by unprecedented labor-climate solidarity in the face of COVID-19 and we'll come out of this more powerful than ever.</p>	<p><a href="#">Copy graphic &gt;</a></p>  <p>The graphic is a circular collage celebrating Earth Day's 50th anniversary. It features a central green tree with a human face. Surrounding the tree are various images of environmental activists and events. Text elements include 'Earth Day: Celebrating 50 Years of Activism', 'GREEN NEW DEAL', and 'Let There Be More Green'.</p>

**(Keep scrolling)**

**THEME: #InvestInPublicHealth**

**Featured Graphic**



**Facebook**

Air pollution is known to cause around [8 million early deaths per year](#), according to the National Academy of Sciences. Add a highly contagious respiratory disease on top of that statistic, and [the numbers only look worse](#).

Long-term public health is directly linked to a population's ability to withstand a pandemic. Investing in the public health of our communities by taking measures to reduce pollutants in the air--such as

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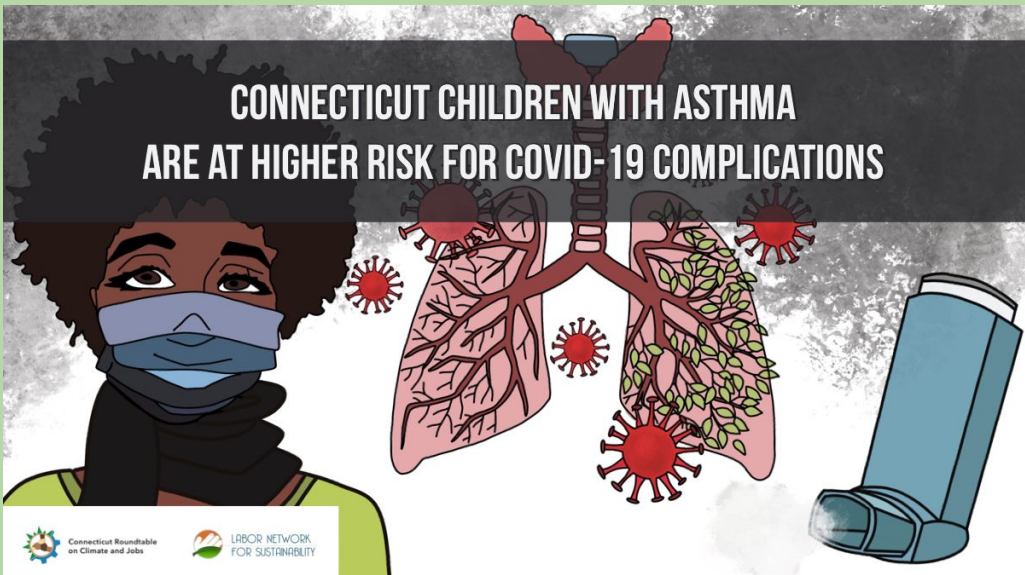



	<p>emissions from internal combustion engines or the burning of coal--is an investment in the resilience of our society to events like the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Investing in our healthcare workers is a public health investment, too. When our healthcare workers have the resources and support to do their jobs (which many do not right now) they are better able to care for us when we get sick.</p> <p>It's simple: investing in environmental quality and giving healthcare workers the things they need to do their jobs results in a society better prepared to handle a global health emergency like COVID-19.</p>	
Instagram	<p>Air pollution is known to cause around <a href="#">8 million early deaths per year</a>, according to the National Academy of Sciences. Add a highly contagious respiratory disease on top of that statistic, and <a href="#">the numbers only look worse</a>.</p> <p>Long-term public health is directly linked to a population's ability to withstand a pandemic. Investing in the public health of our communities by taking measures to reduce pollutants in the air--such as emissions from internal combustion engines or the burning of coal--is an investment in the resilience of our society to events like the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Investing in our healthcare workers is a public health investment, too. When our healthcare workers have the resources and support to do their jobs (which many do not right now) they are better able to care for us when we get sick.</p> <p>It's simple: investing in environmental quality and giving healthcare workers the things they need to do their jobs</p>	



	results in a society better prepared to handle a global health emergency like COVID-19.	
Twitter	Investment in environmental quality+investment in healthcare workers=a society that's at less risk of respiratory ailments and more equipped to handle a pandemic.	

### THEME: #AsthmaVsCOVID

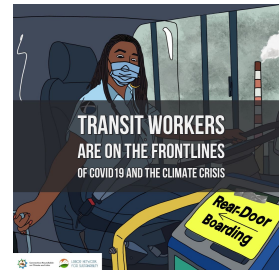
Featured Graphic		
Facebook		<a href="#">Copy graphic &gt;</a> 
Instagram		<a href="#">Copy graphic &gt;</a>


		
Twitter		<a href="#">Copy graphic &gt;</a> 

## THEME: #TransitWorkers

Featured Graphic		
Facebook	<p>Public transit can't afford to shut down right now. Some of the most vulnerable members of our society (many of whom are frontline workers) rely on public transit as the sole means of getting to</p>	<a href="#">Copy graphic &gt;</a> 



	<p>their jobs, the grocery store, and doctors appointments.</p> <p>That means that transit workers are and will continue to be necessary on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. We need to show up for our public transit workers now with adequate personal protective equipment and working conditions that reflect their key position within our society.</p> <p>After COVID-19, too, public transit workers will continue to be crucial--we need to invest in public transit (and the workers that keep it running) to effectively combat the climate crisis.</p> <p>Let's show up for our public transit workers NOW, and keep showing up, because their jobs will not get any less critical</p>	
Instagram	<p>Public transit can't afford to shut down right now. Some of the most vulnerable members of our society (many of whom are frontline workers) rely on public transit as the sole means of getting to their jobs, the grocery store, and doctors appointments.</p> <p>That means that transit workers are and will continue to be necessary on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. We need to show up for our public transit workers now with adequate personal protective equipment and working conditions that reflect their key position within our society.</p> <p>After COVID-19, too, public transit workers will continue to be crucial--we need to invest in public transit (and the workers that keep it running) to effectively combat the climate crisis.</p>	<p><a href="#">Copy graphic &gt;</a></p> 

	Let's show up for our public transit workers NOW, and keep showing up, because their jobs will not get any less critical.	
Twitter	Public transit workers are essential now during #coronavirus and will continue to be essential afterwards as a key player in combating the climate crisis.	<a href="#">Copy graphic &gt;</a> <a href="#">Copy graphic &gt;</a> 

## Target Handles: Congressional Leaders

**Suggestion:** Send your tweets individually to legislators as opposed to in batches.

@SpeakerPelosi  
 @KevinMcCartyCA  
 @NitaLowey  
 @RepKayGranger  
 @RepPeterDeFazio  
 @TransportDems  
 @RepChuyGarcia  
 @RepHankJohnson  
 @RepCohen  
 @RepRickLarsen  
 @RepSeanMalloney

@RepSamGraves  
 @RepMaxineWaters  
 @RepAOC  
 @RepRashida  
 @Ilhan  
 @RepPressley  
 @PatrickHenry

@senatemajldr  
 @senschumer

@SenGillibrand  
@senshelby  
@SenatorLeahy  
@SenatorWicker  
@SenatorCantwell

## **Senate Banking Cmte**

@BankingGOP  
@MikeCrapo  
@SenateBanking  
@SenSherrodBrown  
@SenatorMenendez  
@SenTinaSmith  
@ChrisVanHollen  
@SenWarren

## **‘Allied’ Handles**

@USProgressives  
@PramilaJayapal  
@SenSanders

**House T&I GOP, GOP Climate ‘champs’, or potential swings on transit (suggestion: do not send as a batch. Send individually.)**

@RepSamGraves  
@RepWesterman  
@RepBrianFitz  
@RepJenniffer

@RepDaveJoyce  
@RepRobWoodall  
@BobInglis  
@RSI

## Social Media Handles

**All handles of the signatories' organizations were updated on April 26, 2020. If any of your organization's handles are missing, please let Judy Asman know ASAP. Thank you!**

**Get Targets and Other Congressional Handles ^ ^**

Twitter	Facebook	Instagram
<a href="#">@350</a> <a href="#">@350Eugene</a> <a href="#">@350Maine</a> <a href="#">@350NewOrleans</a> <a href="#">@350_PDX</a> <a href="#">@350philly</a> <a href="#">@350_Seattle</a> <a href="#">@350Spokane</a> <a href="#">@AgMissions</a> <a href="#">@ATUComm</a> <a href="#">@activetrans</a> <a href="#">@APALAnational</a> <a href="#">@BetterBusCo</a> <a href="#">@BWFJ_NC</a> <a href="#">@b_a_m_2020</a> <a href="#">@CASAforall</a> <a href="#">@CenterForBioDiv</a> <a href="#">@cleanh2oaction</a> <a href="#">@clefortransit</a> <a href="#">@ClimateHawkVote</a> <a href="#">@CJAOurPower</a> <a href="#">@betterdcregion</a> <a href="#">@ColumbusTransit</a> <a href="#">@CTClimateJobs</a> <a href="#">@ctlc1</a> <a href="#">@DSAEastBay</a> <a href="#">@Demos_Org</a>	<a href="#">@350.org</a> <a href="#">@350EUG</a> <a href="#">@350.Maine</a> <a href="#">@350NewOrleans</a> <a href="#">@350PDX</a> <a href="#">@350philly</a> <a href="#">@350Seattle</a> <a href="#">@350Spokane</a> <a href="#">@agmissionsinc</a> <a href="#">@ATUInternational</a> <a href="#">@activetrans</a> <a href="#">@APALAnational</a> <a href="#">@BFLowcountryTransit</a> <a href="#">@BetterBusCo</a> <a href="#">@Bronx Climate Justice North</a> <a href="#">@BWFJ.NC</a> <a href="#">@Colorado Call to Action</a> <a href="#">@CASAforAll</a> <a href="#">@CenterforBioDiv</a> <a href="#">@CleanWaterAction</a> <a href="#">@ClimateHawksVote</a> <a href="#">@CJAOurPower</a> <a href="#">@BetterDCRegion</a> <a href="#">@CbusAT</a> <a href="#">@ctclimateandjobs</a> <a href="#">@ctlc1</a>	<a href="#">@350org</a> <a href="#">@350NewOrleans</a> <a href="#">@350pdx</a> <a href="#">@350philly</a> <a href="#">@350seattle</a> <a href="#">@aftunion</a> <a href="#">@activetrans</a> <a href="#">@APALAnational</a> <a href="#">@betterbusco</a> <a href="#">@BuildaMovement2020</a> <a href="#">@casa4all</a> <a href="#">@centerforbiodiv</a> <a href="#">@cleanh2oaction</a> <a href="#">@CJAOurPower</a> <a href="#">@ctlc1</a> <a href="#">@East Bay DSA</a> <a href="#">@demos_org</a> <a href="#">@foe_us</a> <a href="#">@ga_standup</a> <a href="#">@GreenLatinos</a> <a href="#">@greenpeaceusa</a> <a href="#">@ips_dc</a> <a href="#">@jwjnational</a> <a href="#">@labor4sustainability</a> <a href="#">@martaarmy</a> <a href="#">@naacp</a> <a href="#">@youthvgov</a>

<a href="#"><u>@earthethicsinc</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@earthworks</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@eldersclimate</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@fwaction</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@foe_us</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@ga_standup</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@GreenLatinos</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@greenpeaceusa</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@IPS_DC</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@JobsMoveAmerica</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@jwjnational</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@LN4S</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@LCVoters</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@MARTAarmy</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@NAACP</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@nirsnet</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@priceofoil</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@youthvgov</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@phillyTRU</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@Pgh4PubTransit</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@powershiftnet</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@pdamerica</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@Public_Citizen</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@ran</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@sierraclub</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@sunrisemvmt</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@sustainingway</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@democracycollab</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@Wilderness</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@CenterLatino</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@transportworker</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@Tri_State</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@ueunion</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@urbanplannerd</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>@eastbaydsa</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@DemosIdeasAction</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@earthethics</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@EarthworksAction</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@eldersclimateaction</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@FoodandWaterAction</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@foe.us</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@GeorgiaSTANDUP</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@GreenLatinos</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@JobstoMoveAmerica</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@jobswithjustice</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@labor4sustainability</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@lcvoters</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@martaarmy</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@naacp</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@NIRSnet</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@priceofoil</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@youthgov</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@PhillyTransitRiders</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@PittsburghersforPublicTr</u></a> <a href="#"><u>ansit</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@/PowerShiftNetwork</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@PDamerica</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@publiccitizen</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@rainforestactionnetwork</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@SierraClub</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@SOClimate</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@sunrisemvmt</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@sustainingway</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@TaprootSanctuary</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@democracycollaborative</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@therustyanvil</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@TransFormationAlliance</u></a> <a href="#"><u>ATL</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@CenterLatino</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@transportworkersunion</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>@phillyTRU</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@power_shift</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@progressivedemocratsof</u></a> <a href="#"><u>america</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@public_citizen</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@rainforestactionnetwork</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@sierraclub</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@sunrisemvmt</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@sustainingway</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@the_rusty_anvil</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@wildernesssociety</u></a> <a href="#"><u>@transportworker</u></a>
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	<a href="#">@tristatetransportationcampaign</a> <a href="#">@ueunion</a> <a href="#">@ZerofareWRTA</a>	
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## Shoutout Batches

### Shoutout Batch #1: Partner Handles

We stand for #TransitEquity #EarthDay2MayDay @Pgh4PubTransit @transportworker @BasavIPS @SierraClub @PriceofOil @IPS\_DC @LN4S @NAACPGA @NAACP

### Shoutout Batch #2

We stand for #TransitEquity #EarthDay2MayDay [@350](#) [@350Eugene](#) [@350Maine](#) [@350NewOrleans](#) [@350\\_PDX](#) [@350philly](#) [@350\\_Seattle](#) [@350Spokane](#) [@AgMissions](#)

### Shoutout Batch #3

We stand for #TransitEquity #EarthDay2MayDay [@ATUComm](#) [@activetrans](#) [@APALAnational](#) [@BetterBusCo](#) [@BWFJ\\_NC](#) [@b\\_a\\_m\\_2020](#) [@CASAforall](#)

### Shoutout Batch #4

We stand for #TransitEquity #EarthDay2MayDay [@CenterForBioDiv](#) [@cleanh2oaction](#) [@clefortransit](#) [@ClimateHawkVote](#) [@CJAOurPower](#) [@betterdcregion](#)

### Shoutout Batch #5

We stand for #TransitEquity #EarthDay2MayDay [@ColumbusTransit](#) [@CTClimateJobs](#) [ctlc1](#) [@DSAEastBay](#) [@Demos\\_Org](#) [@earthethicsinc](#) [@earthworks](#) [@urbanplannerd](#)

### Shoutout Batch #5

We stand for #TransitEquity #EarthDay2MayDay [@eldersclimate](#) [@fwaction](#) [@foe\\_us](#) [@ga\\_standup](#) [@GreenLatinos](#) [@greenpeaceusa](#)

### Shoutout Batch #5

We stand for #TransitEquity #EarthDay2MayDay [@JobsMoveAmerica](#) [@jwjnational](#) [@LCVoters](#) [@MARTAarmy](#) [@nirsnet](#)

### Shoutout Batch #6

We stand for #TransitEquity #EarthDay2MayDay [@youthvgov](#) [@phillyTRU](#)  
[@powershiftnet](#) [@pdamerica](#) [@Public\\_Citizen](#) [@ran](#)

**Shoutout Batch #7** We stand for #TransitEquity #EarthDay2MayDay [@sunrisemvmt](#)  
[@sustainingwa](#) [@democracycollab](#) [@Wilderness](#) [@CenterLatino](#) [@Tri\\_State](#)  
[@ueunion](#)

## Sample Emails to Legislators:

### 1. [Find your House Rep](#)

- a. Click on the link above
- b. Go to the top right of the House.gov page to enter zip code
- c. The name of your House Rep will appear and you can click on the Rep's name to access contact information

### 2. [Find Your Senator](#)

- a. Click on the link above
- b. Scroll to the bottom of the Senate.gov page to search for your Senators by state

Dear Representative X, Senator Y, and Senator Z,

I am writing to urge you to increase the allocation for emergency assistance to public transit in the proposed next round of economic stimulus to address the coronavirus crisis and its economic impact, [as outlined in this letter sent to Congressional leaders on April 21, 2020.](#)

Much as water, electricity, sanitation, and food distribution services are essential to maintain during the pandemic, it is essential to keep public transit running, so essential workers can get to their jobs.

Transit systems nationwide are under severe financial stress because of the pandemic. They are incurring additional expenditures for frequent sanitization of handrails, benches, seats, and other surfaces that employees and passengers touch frequently. However, it is folly to believe that riding transit is safer than using a ride share Uber or similar service, where a false sense of security is cultivated because you don't see the possibly infected strangers sharing the space in the hours before you.



Even as they're facing these added costs, buses in many cities are operating free with rear-door entry to protect operators and passengers from being in close proximity.

This loss of fare revenue occurs at a time when frequent, reliable, free service is essential both for reasons of public health and needed economic relief. Transit systems must be able to run at *whatever frequency is needed* to allow all workers and passengers to maintain the medically recommended safe distance. Lack of funding shouldn't be an excuse to endanger public health, and the federal government must step in to provide the entirety of the additional funding transit agencies need to maintain free service at the required frequency to avoid overcrowding and allow all system operators and users to maintain social distancing.

Free transit operations are also immensely beneficial to communities dealing with high levels of unemployment because of the coronavirus-induced recession. Households are struggling to pay rent, mortgages, utilities, and other needed expenses, and it really helps their household budgets if transportation is free.

As transit agencies face added financial strain because of the coronavirus crisis, they need additional federal funding to be able to continue vitally needed paratransit service for seniors, dialysis patients, and people with disabilities.

Further, since transit operations need to continue during the pandemic, transit operators and vehicle and facility maintenance workers must be considered essential workers, on par with utility, sanitation, and grocery workers, and they must have access to personal protective equipment (PPE) for the duration of the pandemic. This is too large of a cost for transit agencies and local governments to shoulder, especially with all the other strains on their budgets in the current recession.

I commend the inclusion of \$25 billion in emergency funding for transit in the CARES Act, but that is insufficient to deal with the scale of the crisis. I strongly urge you to provide the needed funding on an emergency basis to keep transit systems running as an essential lifeline during the coronavirus emergency.

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## Sample phone call script:

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_ and I live in Congress Member \_\_\_\_'s district.

I am calling to urge you to increase the allocation for emergency assistance to public transit in the proposed next round of economic stimulus to address the coronavirus crisis and its economic impact.

Much as water, electricity, sanitation, and food distribution services are essential to maintain during the pandemic, it is essential to keep public transit running, so essential workers can get to their jobs.

Transit systems nationwide are under severe financial stress because of the pandemic. They are incurring additional expenditures for sanitization of frequently touched surfaces. At the same time, buses in many cities are operating free to protect operators and passengers from being in close proximity. Even as they're losing fare revenue, they need to run service at *whatever frequency is needed* to allow all workers and passengers to maintain the medically recommended safe distance.

They also need additional federal funding to be able to continue vitally needed paratransit service for seniors, dialysis patients, and people with disabilities.

Transit workers are essential workers, and must have access to personal protective equipment (PPE) for the duration of the pandemic.

Transit agencies and local governments cannot bear these costs, particularly at a time of greatly reduced fare revenue and overall economic crisis. The CARES Act provided \$25 billion for transit, but that's not nearly enough. I urge you to allocate more emergency funding for transit.

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## Mini-Thread:

It's great that transit agencies are running free buses to minimize driver-passenger proximity at farebox for #COVID19 safety. But if they don't run buses frequently enough to avoid crowded buses & bus stops, it defeats the point. 1/2

It costs money to do this, which is hard to do in a recession — particularly w/o fare revenue. The solution is clear: Congress must #FundTransit to address the shortfall. 2/2

## Graphics and Memes



