

May 7, 2020

Dear Senator Harris:

SPUR is a member-supported nonprofit organization that promotes good planning and good government in the San Francisco Bay Area through research, education and advocacy. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the financial vulnerability of our transportation systems, leaving them with shrunken budgets for the foreseeable future. At the same time, these agencies will have an even greater responsibility for providing affordable, safe and reliable mobility to get to jobs, interviews, school and medical care. SPUR urges Congress to:

1. **Provide at least \$1.3 billion to the Bay Area as a revenue backstop for transit for 18 months** to enable states, regions, and local governments to help maintain our transit system and keep projects moving. The funding shortfall resulting from plummeting ridership and revenue threatens the nearly 250,000 people employed in the surface transportation sector in the Bay Area and 1.6 million in the State of California and our ability to operate and maintain our transportation network.
2. **Provide a supplemental, large-scale transportation investment in the form of a Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act reauthorization** to support long-term economic recovery effort. Investments in building public transit, complete streets, and bicycle lanes are proven job generators and can help California avoid extreme economic strain. This should provide flexible operating support, grow existing programs, update transit programs to reward reliability, and fund state-of-good repair and climate resilience.
3. **Advance policies aimed at expediting transit and sustainable transportation project delivery.** California's road to recovery should not be congested with cars, but transit and sustainable transportation provide numerous economic, social and environmental benefits. Studies have shown that complete streets projects create an average of 10 jobs per million dollars. Investments in public transportation result in an average of 13 jobs per million dollars spent and have a 5 to 1 economic return.¹

Thank you for your continued leadership and advocacy to support the Bay Area's recovery.

Sincerely,



Alicia John-Baptiste
CEO and President

¹ Smart Growth America, 2011, Recent Lessons from the Stimulus: Transportation Funding and Job Creation, <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/app/legacy/documents/lessons-from-the-stimulus.pdf>