



**AMERICAN  
PUBLIC  
TRANSPORTATION  
ASSOCIATION**

May 21, 2020

---

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

CHAIR

Nuria I. Fernandez

VICE CHAIR

Jeffrey A. Nelson

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Freddie C. Fuller II

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

David M. Stackrow, Sr.

Dorval R. Carter, Jr.  
Francis "Buddy" Coleman  
Michael Goldman  
Huelon A. Harrison  
Kevin J. Holzendorf  
Karen H. King  
Michele Wong Krause  
Jeanne Krieg  
Thomas C. Lambert  
Adelee Marie Le Grand  
Richard J. Leary  
Henry Li  
Raymond J. Melleady  
Brad Miller  
Allan Pollock  
Leanne P. Redden  
Catherine Rinaldi  
Doug Tisdale  
William T. Thomsen  
Matthew O. Tucker  
Thomas Waldron

---

**PRESIDENT AND CEO**

Paul P. Skoutelas

Dear Transit CEOs,

The APTA Legislative Committee recently agreed to support the efforts of transit third-party contractors to clarify that public transit agencies may use CARES Act transit funds to pay contractors to maintain readiness and pay employees, even if those employees are on leave because of service reductions. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has expressly stated that transit agencies may amend their contracts to make these payments and House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (House T&I Committee) leaders have encouraged agencies to take advantage of this flexibility to maintain readiness, including paying employees and other fixed expenses of private operators. *See FTA's Frequently Asked Questions CA5, CA6, and CA16 and the April 23, 2020 House T&I Committee letter.*

I know that several agencies have taken advantage of this flexibility and I write to also encourage you to consider amending your contracts with third-party contractors to enable them to maintain readiness and pay employees who are on administrative leave or working reduced hours. Our industry is preparing to restore public transportation as states and local communities reopen and as passenger demand grows, including essential services for low-income, elderly, and disabled passengers. Transit workforce readiness is critical to this effort as public agency employees and third-party contractors are key to the restart of operations as the economy reopens. Safe, reliable, and affordable public transportation is essential to our nation's economic recovery.

Thank you for your consideration and for the extraordinary work you and your agencies are doing.

Sincerely,

Paul P. Skoutelas  
President and CEO

---

1300 I Street NW  
Suite 1200 East  
Washington, DC 20005  
p: (202) 496-4800  
f: (202) 496-4324

**APTA.COM**