



CITY OF CARSON

April 2, 2020

Dear Jacki,

There is a pressing and time-sensitive issue I would like to bring to your attention. Public health experts have reported that the Coronavirus can remain on surfaces for up to 72 hours. Experts have identified that mass transit is one of the popular means by which COVID-19 is passed person to person, thus prolonging the pandemic and needlessly causing the deaths of many, such as seniors and the economically disadvantaged, who often utilize mass transit. This vector needs to be quashed immediately!

As a result, effective March 28, 2020, I suspended local bus service in the City of Carson. If we are truly serious about stopping the spread of this deadly pandemic, Mayors in every city should join me in this bold and effective step and also immediately suspend all mass transit in their respective cities.

I recently contacted the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO) to implore the agency to join me in suspending mass transit throughout L.A. County for the safety and health of the public. Unfortunately, the agency declined to suspend their operations and coincidentally shortly thereafter, one of METRO's bus drivers tested positive for COVID-19. It is unfathomable to think of how many hundreds of thousands of people this driver unwittingly put at risk and may have directly contaminated.

As someone who has relied on buses in years past, I know mass transit is important for many reasons, and I understand that this may impact those individuals who can least afford transit alternatives. To facilitate a remedy, I contacted Lyft to develop a partnership to provide on-demand ride services to residents 18 years and older at a 50% discount. The City will cover the remaining balance up to a maximum subsidy of \$10 by entering a code into the Lyft app. So alternatives are available.

This Coronavirus Pandemic will continue for much longer than necessary unless this action of suspending all mass transit is taken. I would rather say to my constituents that I am sorry for the inconvenience, rather than I am sorry for your loss. While this is a sobering sentiment, it highlights the dire situation that we, as a nation, are facing.

I implore you to join me in my fight against this deadly pandemic and call for all Mayors in every city to immediately suspend mass transit in their respective cities. Please feel free to contact me to discuss this further or if you have any questions. I can be reached at (310) 952-1706.

Stay safe, healthy and well!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ALB ROBLES". The signature is stylized with a large, bold "A" and "R".

Albert Robles
Mayor

South Bay Municipal Operator responses to Carson request to support request Metro cease bus operations during COVID-19 pandemic.

Beach Cities Transit

“Redondo Beach is continuing to operate transit services to provide transportation to the public who rely on the service for essential trips. To date, the City Council supports this position.

We are operating on modified schedules, and have suspended a few of our late evening trips, and S/D dial-a-ride hours are reduced to 9am to 5pm, until further notice.”

-Joyce Rooney
Transit Operations and Transportation Facilities Manager

GTrans

“Hi folks, we received a similar letter. We responded back this week. We can provide a copy of the letter that went out for your information. In the meantime, here is an excerpt from that letter:

‘As you are aware, Governor Newsom issued the Safer at Home order on March 19, 2020. Within that order, he deemed public transportation as an essential service. Public transit, including the services provided by GTrans, is a lifeline to access groceries, medical appointments, and other essential destinations for thousands of individuals. Furthermore, we know that countless first responders, hospital workers and other essential city and county employees rely on our service to get to their critical functions.

In continuing to provide GTrans’ essential service, we are following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), State of California and Los Angeles County health orders. We have implemented more stringent disinfecting procedures on the bus, blocked off seating within the bus to support social distancing, and implemented read door boarding/suspended fare collection to minimize contact between our customers and the Operator. Finally, yesterday we implemented a service reduction to match the reduced demand for our service.

At this time, we are committed to providing this essential service to our customers. We will continue to monitor the situation, and follow any further orders from the State, County and/or the City of Gardena. Should there be a direction to change our service further, we will certainly comply.’

-Dana Pynn
Administrative Officer

PV Transit

“Shown below is our response to Mayor Robles’ letter requesting the closure of transit service in Los Angeles County.

PV Transit effective March 16th went from operating eight bus routes to one. The remaining route in operation, Route 225-226 provides service between San Pedro, the Palos Verdes Peninsula, and Redondo

Beach. While ridership is very light, it is providing a vital service for the handful of workers and caregivers that must ride the bus. The four bus operators driving this route are fully-equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE) and the buses are cleaned several times during the day.

Our dial-a-ride service for senior and disabled residents has also experienced drastic ridership declines. Most of the customers still using this service are going to dialysis treatments. Without PVTransit, these individuals would have difficulty accessing this life-saving treatment.

Our Agency will continue to monitor the announcements made by public health professionals and adjust service if needed.”

-Martin Gombert, Administrator
Palos Verdes Peninsula Transit Authority

Torrance Transit

“Torrance Transit echoes the sentiments of our colleagues from Redondo Beach (Beach Cities Transit) and Gardena (G-Trans). The services provided by Torrance Transit has been deemed essential by the Federal government and the Governor during this crisis and we will continue to operate on a modified Saturday schedule in order to continue assisting others who are also working to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a proactive response to the potential spread of COVID-19, Torrance Transit will continue its robust vehicle sanitization procedures. Each night, our vehicles are cleaned with antibacterial and antimicrobial disinfectant. For employees who come in contact with the public, they are given gloves, masks, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes. In addition, we have created an operator safety zone on all of our buses.

The City of Torrance has issued internal information to its employees and external messages to the public regarding best practices to stay healthy as provided by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California State Government. Torrance Transit will continue to monitor the CDC, California State Government and the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) websites for updates and best practices to keep employees and passengers safe.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please let me know.”

-Kim Turner
Director