



**SOUTH BAY CITIES**  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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April 14, 2020

Albert Robles, Mayor  
City of Carson  
701 E. Carson Street / P.O. BOX 6234  
Carson, CA 90749

Dear Mayor Robles:

Thank you for your letter recommending that South Bay transit operators suspend their mass transit service during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your letter was included in the agenda and discussed at the April 13, 2020 SBCCOG Steering Committee and there was agreement to support Carson's efforts to keep their residents safe. The city deserves praise for providing continuing on-demand mobility to your residents. Other South Bay cities have adopted different strategies to provide essential public transit services appropriate to the demand in their communities by significantly reducing the frequency and hours of their fixed-route transit service, increasing sanitizing their vehicles and protecting their employees that come in contact with the public.

I also wanted to make you aware that the SBCCOG Steering Committee reviewed the following responses to your letter sent by other South Bay transit agencies as of April 4<sup>th</sup>. Here is a summary of their respective responses:

Beach Cities Transit (BCT): Redondo Beach is continuing to operate transit services to provide transportation to the public who rely on the service for essential trips. BCT is are operating on modified schedules and has suspended a few late evening trips. The Senior and Disabled dial-a-ride hours are reduced to 9am to 5pm, until further notice.

Gardena Transit (GTrans): 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 employee rely on our service to get to their critical functions. In continuing to provide essential service, GTrans implemented a service reduction and is 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. At this time, GTrans is committed to providing this essential service to our customers, to continue to monitor the situation, and to follow any further orders from the State, County and/or the City of Gardena.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ACTION

Carson El Segundo Gardena Hawthorne Hermosa Beach Inglewood Lawndale Lomita  
Manhattan Beach Palos Verdes Estates Rancho Palos Verdes Redondo Beach Rolling Hills  
Rolling Hills Estates Torrance Los Angeles District #15 Los Angeles County

Palos Verdes Peninsula Transit Authority (PVTransit): Effective March 16<sup>th</sup>, PV Transit 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 91 Beach. 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. The PVTransit 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. The agency will continue to monitor the announcements made by public health professionals and adjust service if needed.

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. Torrance Transit 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 nightly robust vehicle sanitization procedures. Employees who come in contact with the public are given gloves, masks, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes. In addition, the agency has 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.

I hope these responses are helpful. Thank you again for sharing your concerns with the SBCCOG.

Sincerely,



Christian Horvath, Chair  
South Bay Cities Council of Governments

c.c.: Jacki Bacharach, Executive Director  
South Bay Transit Operators Working Group