

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (April 3, 2020) – Port Authority CEO Katharine Kelleman today extended her sincere appreciation to federal, state and local officials for their efforts in supporting public transit during the ongoing global pandemic.

Congress last week approved a federal stimulus bill aimed at ensuring residents will continue to have access to public transit despite the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act provides \$25 billion in aid to transit agencies nationwide. Port Authority is eligible for \$141.75 million.

“I’d like to thank our Congressional delegation for their quick action as we continue to weather this storm and eventually recover from the devastating impact COVID-19 has had on our industry,” Kelleman said. “For many of our neighbors in Allegheny County, public transit is the only way they can get groceries, medicine and other essential goods.

“Although we encourage people to stay at home, it’s imperative that we continue to provide service for those who can least afford to do so.”

Since the first week of March, Port Authority has experienced historic decreases in ridership. Ridership decreased by as much as 84 percent in the last days of the month.

Weekday	2019 March Avg	Ridership	% Change
Wednesday, March 25, 2020	198,726	45,861	-77%
Thursday, March 26, 2020	198,726	50,476	-75%
Friday, March 27, 2020	198,726	38,820	-80%
Saturday, March 28, 2020	96,728	29,903	-69%
Sunday, March 29, 2020	62,916	27,066	-57%
Monday, March 30, 2020	198,726	40,124	-80%
Tuesday, March 31, 2020	198,726	32,292	-84%

In addition to the significant drop in ridership, the global pandemic has also posed a substantial threat to the Authority's finances. Port Authority currently projects an estimated \$30 million operating budget impact through the end of June, a figure that includes approximately \$6.5 million in reduced passenger and advertising revenue each month, and increased expenses, including an additional \$200,000 a week in costs associated with more frequent cleaning protocols and acquiring personal protective equipment like gloves and hand sanitizer. The Authority is also working to determine the impact on state and local subsidies, which could dramatically increase that estimate.