



COLORADO
Department of Transportation

Office of the Executive Director

2829 W. Howard Place
Denver, CO 80204-2305

November 3, 2020

Dear Transit Partners,

The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of updates to the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment's (CDPHE) COVID-19 guidance for transit providers and to stress the urgency of your full compliance with these public health requirements, which are mandatory for all transit providers operating in Colorado. These updated guidelines are effective November 9, so we ask you to review them immediately and encourage you to reach out with any questions. Moreover, as recipients of state funds administered through the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), it is critical that you model full compliance and demonstrate best practices with respect to moving people safely during this challenging period of time. We know there may be questions and if there is interest, we are happy to host a webinar.

The state's sector-specific guidelines ensure that we translate public health best-practices to a variety of contexts so that Colorado's citizens and economy can thrive in the midst of COVID-19 in a manner that optimizes protections and minimizes public health risk. With respect to transit, doing so is vital to providing travelers with safe, multimodal choices.

We are currently at a crucial juncture in our collective fight against COVID-19, with the state's numbers reaching their highest levels since the spring — just as we head into the holiday season and the travel and tourism that comes with it. We must increase the vigilance of our response in the transportation sector not only to protect access to jobs and critical services, but also to allow for a safe winter recreation season — which will be important for both quality of life and our economy. In many mountain communities, for example, buses play a singularly important role in communities' economic vitality.

At this point in our response, we know enough about the behavior of this virus to know what types of actions can make a difference.

Mask-wearing, for one, is an essential first line of defense, and it is mandatory for transit riders both for the benefit of the mask-wearer and for the benefit of those around them. Social distancing is also broadly recognized to make a big difference — as respiratory droplets can spread up to six feet, or even more in some circumstances. Thus, while we appreciate the challenges of limiting capacity on transit in order to maximize social distancing, these rules, as modified in the new guidance, are critical for maintaining a safe distance and must be followed as part of operating under the state guidelines. Moreover, other measures, such as aggressive cleaning and sanitation procedures, symptom-monitoring,



and contact tracing when a case is identified, are all part of the comprehensive strategy that we need to keep Colorado moving during COVID-19.

We recognize that compliance with these rules is not easy, and state agencies and funding recipients share the challenges associated with adhering to the highest standards of compliance, setting a good example for individuals, and thus maintaining public confidence in our ability to provide safe choices to travelers during this difficult time. CDOT stands ready to help transit organizations across the state share best practices and work through obstacles, and to help you determine how funding that you are receiving through sources such as the CARES Act and FASTER Transit may be reprioritized to help adjust operations to meet the unique challenges presented by COVID-19.

We appreciate your attention to this important issue and look forward to continuing to work together.

Respectfully,



Shoshana M. Lew
Executive Director, Colorado Department of Transportation

Attachment: Colorado Pandemic Protocols for Transit

