



Transportation Communications Union/IAM

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



Robert A. Scardelletti, *National President*

Legislative Department

William DeCarlo, *Nat. Vice President & Nat. Legislative Director*

David Arouca, *Asst. Nat. Legislative Director*

April 22nd, 2020

Re: MTA Operating Assistance

Dear New York Congressional Delegation:

We are writing on behalf of our 3,600 TCU members working diligently and heroically at Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Headquarters, MTA IT, Business Service Center (BSC) and its commuter railroads, the Long Island Railroad (LIRR), Metro North Railroad (MNR) and Staten Island Rapid Transit (SIRTOA).

Our members are braving the pandemic to continue to clean, maintain, and operate New York City's transportation network, but they need your help. In an April 16th letter, MTA Chairman Pat Foye detailed the severity of the system's budgetary issues with a projected \$7.0 - \$8.5 billion shortfall for 2020. Chairman Foye's letter thoroughly explains the problem, and since you are no doubt inundated with hundreds of letters, we will be brief.

TCU supports the MTA's request for \$3.9 billion in funding in the next pandemic legislative package. This funding will ensure that the MTA system and its commuter railroads will continue to function, while providing the much-needed support to keep our members working.

As Chairman Foye's letter attests, our members are busy going above-and-beyond to respond to the crisis, but their heroism is in dire need of support from Congress:

...We are also incurring additional expenses related to ensuring the safety of our staff and riders, disinfecting our stations, rolling stock and workspaces to a new, even more costly level. We do not expect those overheads to decline, but instead to increase as ridership returns.

Through it all, however, the members of our heroic workforce continue to show up – day in and day out – just as they did after 9/11 and Superstorm Sandy. They are committed to helping the doctors and nurses, the childcare, grocery store and utility workers, the police officers and other first responders do their critical jobs. We all owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

The dedication of our workers comes at the highest cost: heartbreakingly, 68 brave colleagues have tragically passed away due to this virus. New York City Transit alone has more than 2,400 subway and bus employees who have tested positive for COVID-19. Another 4,400 are on home quarantine and thousands more are calling out sick.

◆ 3 Research Place ◆ Rockville, Maryland 20850-3279 ◆
Phone—301-840-8704 ◆ FAX—301-330-7673 ◆ Website—www.tcunion.org

The COVID-19 pandemic is a national disaster that requires a national response. The situation is dire, and we cannot cut our way out of this crisis...

We ask that you to heed Chairman Foye's call for urgent action for funding support. These funds will not only go towards paying our dedicated heroes, but also towards the acquisition of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and the deployment of additional cleaning supplies – all of which help keep our members and the general public safer during this pandemic.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Our members' lives and livelihoods depend on it.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Scardelletti
National President

Artie Maratea
Nat. Vice President
& Nat. President-elect
(as of 8/1/20)
*former LIRR carman
& clerical*

Bill DeCarlo
Nat. Vice President
& Nat. Legislative Director
former LIRR clerical