



AMERICAN  
PUBLIC  
TRANSPORTATION  
ASSOCIATION

December 8, 2020

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**PRESIDENT AND CEO**

Paul P. Skoutelas

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**APTA.COM**

The Honorable Mike DeWine  
77 South High Street  
30th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine,

On behalf of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), our 1,500 member organizations and the tens of millions of public transportation riders, I want to thank you for your extraordinary efforts to help contain the spread of COVID-19 and keep residents healthy and safe.

We are heartened by the progress on the development and deployment of the COVID-19 vaccine. **We urge you to designate public transportation workers as essential employees in your state's public health plan and give them high priority in your vaccine distribution efforts.**

Since the early days of the pandemic, public transportation has played a critical role in transporting essential frontline workers to their jobs in health care, education, utilities and retail for food and critical supplies. Our public transit employees have been heroes moving heroes. Public transit service will be even more critical to the recovery of local, state and national economies.

At the national level, we are pleased that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, which is advising the Centers for Disease Control, proposed that essential workers (including transportation workers) be included in the second priority group after health care workers.

In addition, public transit workers providing critical transit services and performing critical or routine maintenance have been designated by the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (DHS/CISA) as Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers. Their performance of critical functions places them at higher risk of exposure to COVID-19 infection.

We want you to know that our industry stands ready to help in any way to facilitate the vaccine distribution, such as getting residents, including people with disabilities, to vaccination sites.

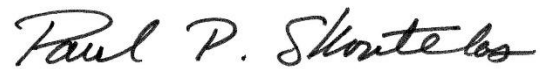
The Honorable Mike DeWine

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Thank you for your attention and consideration of this urgent matter. If you have any questions, please contact APTA's Senior Director Security, Risk & Emergency Management, Ms. Polly Hanson, at [phanson@apta.com](mailto:phanson@apta.com) or (202) 496-4895.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul P. Skoutelas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul P. Skoutelas  
President and CEO