



AFFILIATED AGENCIES

*Orange County
Transit District*

*Local Transportation
Authority*

*Service Authority for
Freeway Emergencies*

*Consolidated Transportation
Service Agency*

*Congestion Management
Agency*

December 18, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) appreciates the magnitude of the challenges the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has created for the State and local agencies, in continuously seeking to ensure evolving guidance and best practices comport with the latest scientific, financial, and safety data. We are hopeful that having new vaccination options will present a path forward to resolving the pandemic and re-establishing a sense of normalcy statewide. With the federal Food and Drug Administration's approval of a vaccine on Friday, December 11, 2020, OCTA is formally requesting that public transportation workers be included in Phase 1B of the state's vaccine distribution plan, following healthcare workers and those in congregate facilities.

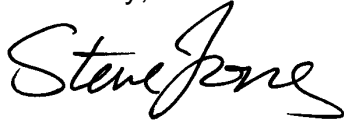
Throughout the pandemic, OCTA has delivered critical services in transporting essential workers to their jobs and residents in need of making essential trips to the grocery store, medical facilities, and more. A large majority of our current ridership have jobs considered essential, which include healthcare, education, utility, and grocery store workers. In providing these services, one of our top priorities has always been the safety and health of our employees, OC Bus riders, and those engaged in constructing capital improvements on our multimodal transportation system. We have closely monitored public health and physical distancing guidance from federal, state, and local officials while we fulfill our responsibility to facilitate those activities deemed essential to fighting the spread of COVID-19. Specifically, the Department of Homeland Security has designated 16 Critical Infrastructure Sectors, one of which is the Transportation Systems Sector, and Executive Order N-33-20 identified transportation as essential in preserving the health and safety of Californians.

As we move forward, the transportation sector will be critical in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by both facilitating the movement of people and providing for necessary economic stimulus through the delivery of infrastructure projects. Therefore, the health and safety of our transportation workers must be a top priority for the State and should be prioritized in the forthcoming Phase 1B vaccination distribution guidelines.

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Thank you for your consideration of this request, and if you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Lance Larson, Executive Director of Government Relations, at (714) 560-5908.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Jones" clearly legible.

Steve Jones
Chairman

SJ:al

c: David Kim, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
Mark Ghaly, Doctor of Medicine, Master of Public Health, Secretary, California
of Health and Human Services Agency
Marko Mijic, Deputy Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Tomás J. Aragón, Director, California Department of Public Health
Erica S. Pan, MD, MPH, Acting State Public Health Officer, California
Department of Public Health
Orange County State Legislative Delegation
Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, OCTA
Platinum Advisors, LLC
Topp Strategies, LLC