



December 9, 2020

Office of Governor Ron DeSantis
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis:

On behalf of the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA), thank you for all your efforts to help contain the coronavirus and keep our residents and employees safe and healthy. We are heartened by the news of a vaccine and **urge you to include public transportation workers in phase one of Florida's vaccine distribution plan.**

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 at grocery stores. Our employees have been heroes moving heroes. Public transit workers have worked throughout the pandemic to move our community and to help our economy recover.

The American Public Transportation Association has worked with national health and safety organizations and public transit workers have been designated as essential workers at the national level. On December 3, the advisory group for the Centers for Disease Control recommended that essential workers be included in the second priority group after health care workers. In addition, transit workers have been designated by the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (DHS/CISA) as Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers, whose performance of critical functions places them at higher risk of exposure to COVID-19 infection.

Public transit service will be even more critical to the recovery of our state as people return to work and the lives they desire. Public transit is essential for our community to survive and thrive. We also want you to know that our transit systems are here to help in any way to facilitate the vaccine distribution and get residents to vaccination sites.

Executive Director: Lisa M. Bacot

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Florida Public Transportation Association

If you have any questions, please contact me at lisabacot@floridatransit.org or 850.445.8329. Thank you again for all your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Bacot', is placed over a light gray rectangular background.

Lisa M. Bacot
Executive Director

CC: Dr. Shamarial Roberson, Deputy Secretary, Florida Department of Health
Kevin J. Thibault, Secretary, Department of Transportation

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