

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 15, 2023

Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Shailen Bhatt
Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg, Administrator Bhatt, and Administrator Fernandez:

Thank you for your rapid response to the I-95 bridge collapse this week. We are grateful for the support the Department and the Federal Highway Administration have offered to the Commonwealth already, and look forward to working together in the coming weeks to get the repairs finished as quickly as possible.


As we work on the federal level to support the Commonwealth in the immediate aftermath of the collapse, public transportation must play a central role. SEPTA's regional rail and subway lines could help local riders – who make up a substantial portion of the 160,000 drivers who use this portion of I-95 daily – continue to navigate the city. By helping SEPTA increase capacity and provide a viable alternative to the surface roads, we can reduce congestion on the detour routes while also protecting pedestrians and cyclists who use these roads.

Federal support should encompass the entire response to the collapse – including transit services. SEPTA has already increased the frequency of the regional rail lines running parallel to I-95 and added cars to the regional rail and Market-Frankford Lines. If we deliver rapid federal support for SEPTA operations, the agency will be able to continue and broaden these service expansions to meet the clear need.


Our understanding is that SEPTA's expanded capacity would be eligible for Emergency Relief funds. Any other funding mechanisms should be moved at the fastest possible speed. We hope that the Department of Transportation will explore all options, including additional Emergency Relief funds and other flexibilities, to provide immediate support to SEPTA.

We look forward to working with the Department and the Commonwealth to tap any other available funds to support transit operations. Strong and reliable transit services can be a game-changer as we respond to this collapse – we must not ignore it.

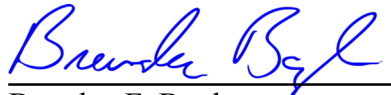
Sincerely,



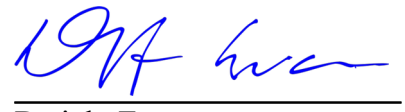
John Fetterman
United States Senator




Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



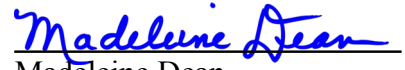
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress




Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress