The cover letter should include the following information:

* Summarize the study’s contribution to the scientific literature
* Relate the study to previously published work
* Specify the type of article (for example, research article, systematic review, meta-analysis, clinical trial)
* Describe any prior interactions with PLOS regarding the submitted manuscript
* Suggest appropriate Academic Editors to handle your manuscript ([see the full list of Academic Editors)](http://journals.plos.org/plosone/static/editorial-board)
* List any opposed reviewers

Dear Editor:

I would like to submit the manuscript entitled “The Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Public Transit Demand in U.S.” by Luyu Liu, Harvey J. Miller, and Jonathan Scheff to be considered as a **research article** for publication in the PLOS Special Collection “Spatiotemporal COVID-19 Rapid Response”. This paper shows that COVID-19 had major impacts on transit demand of 113 US transit systems in multiple dimensions and demonstrates the social equity issues of transit usage during the pandemic. This paper is a first step towards understanding the heterogeneous impacts of a pandemic such as COVID-19 on transit systems in the United States. We believe this paper can fill in an imperative gap in this area and will be suitable to the readers of your journal and the theme of the special collection.

We declare that this manuscript is original, has not been published and submitted before, and is not currently being considered for publication elsewhere. We know of no conflicts of interest associated with this publication, and there has been no significant financial support for this work that could have influence its outcome. As Corresponding Author, I confirm that the manuscript has been read and approved for submission by all the named authors.

We hope you find our manuscript suitable for publication and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Sincerely,

Luyu Liu

Department of Geography, The Ohio State University

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