

SAMTRANS
CORRESPONDENCE
as of 4-1-2022



March 28, 2022

The Honorable Ben Allen
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
1021 O' Street, Suite 3230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 942 (Newman) Low Carbon Transit Operations Program: Free or Reduced Fare Transit Program. – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Allen:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), I write in **SUPPORT** of SB 942 (Newman). This bill has been introduced to address the reality that, despite the popularity of the fare free or reduced fare programs among riders, they are challenging for transit agencies to implement and sustain because of the high costs associated with them.

This bill would help address this barrier by allowing transit agencies to access and utilize funds generated from the Low-Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) to support fare free or reduced fare programs on an ongoing basis.

Under current law, funds collected by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) from the sale of cap-and-trade auction allowances are placed in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) for the Legislature to appropriate as necessary to qualifying programs. LCTOP is a program that receives five percent of cap-and-trade auction proceeds annually. This program aids transit agencies in providing clean, reliable fleets that effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Transit agencies are authorized to use LCTOP funds for a variety of activities, including: directly enhance or expand transit service by supporting new or expanded bus or rail services, purchase of zero-emission buses, including electric buses, and the installation of the necessary equipment and infrastructure to operate and support these zero-emission buses.

However, these funds are generally difficult for long-term or ongoing use for the same project, as transit agencies are required under current law to demonstrate that each year's expenditures reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the baseline in the fiscal year directly prior. Because of this limitation, transit agencies are prohibited from using LCTOP funds to subsidize, among other operational expenses, fare free or reduced fare programs on an ongoing basis.

The Honorable Ben Allen
March 28, 2022
Page 2 of 2

This bill would partially address the costs associated with running fare free or reduced fare programs by creating new flexibility in LCTOP that would allow transit agencies to implement these programs with clear and long-term funding support. These programs could make a tremendous difference in ridership numbers and will help public transit become a more popularized mode of transportation.

As an administrator of several reduced fare programs, SamTrans voices its **SUPPORT** for SB 942 (Newman) and the additional funding flexibility it could provide.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Government and Community Affairs Manager Jessica Epstein at epsteinj@samtrans.com if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Carter Mau
Acting General Manager/CEO

cc: The Honorable Josh Newman, California State Senate
San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors
San Mateo County Transit District State Legislative Delegation

From: [Representative Anna G. Eshoo](#)
To: [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board (@samtrans.com))
Subject: POLL: Gas Prices
Date: Friday, April 1, 2022 2:32:40 PM

You don't often get email from ca18aeima@mail.house.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

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*Congresswoman
Anna G. Eshoo*

Friday 1 April 2022

Dear Friends,

Seeking the input of my constituents and listening carefully to them is a very important part of my job as your representative. I hope you'll take a minute to share your thoughts with me through a quick survey about rising gas prices and consumer rebates.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine, combined with lagging production caused by the global pandemic have caused gas prices to soar. Despite President Biden's ban on Russian oil imports which account for just three percent of U.S. oil imports, oil remains a global commodity and the instability caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues to drive up global oil prices. The spikes are expected to continue, making the case for the U.S. to continue to move to renewable energy sources.

Fossil fuel companies have over 9,000 approved unused leases to drill on federal lands, but rather than increase production to drive down costs, oil industry CEOs are profiting off high prices and using enormous profits for stock buybacks and executive bonuses.

Congress is considering several different options to help ease the pain at the pump, including rebates for middle class households. I've cosponsored legislation to provide \$100 rebates to everyone earning less than \$75,000 per year during every month that gas prices exceed \$4 per gallon on average nationwide. Families would also receive \$100 per dependent.

What do you think Congress should do to offset higher gas prices caused by Putin?

- Offer rebates to consumers to offset high gas prices
- Suspend the 18.4 cent per gallon of the federal gas tax

- Take no action
- Other

** By participating in this survey, you are opting in to receive the latest news from Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo*

Sincerely,



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

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From: mike@mikeforster.us
To: [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Board (@caltrain.com)); [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board (@samtrans.com)); [Baltao, Elaine \[board.secretary@vta.org\]](mailto:Baltao, Elaine [board.secretary@vta.org])
Subject: CalShuttle - The Future of Bay Area Transit: On-demand, point-to-point, fast, safe, 24-hour shuttle rapid transit.
Date: Thursday, March 31, 2022 9:29:01 AM

You don't often get email from mike@mikeforster.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

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March 31, 2022

To:
Caltrain Board of Directors
SamTrans Board of Directors
Valley Transit Authority Board of Directors

I want to bring to your attention my white paper study, " CalShuttle – The Future of Bay Area Transit: On-demand, point-to-point, fast, safe, 24-hour shuttle rapid transit."

This white paper can be viewed and downloaded at www.mikeforster.us.

This white paper may help inform your decisions about future transit options for San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties.

Mike Forster, Palo Alto
mike@mikeforster.us
650 464 9425

From: [Davis, Chiconda V@DOT](#) on behalf of [Caltrans D4@DOT](#)
To: [MICHAEL HARRIS](#); [presidentreynoldsexparte@cpuc.ca.gov](#); [Rachel A. Peterson](#)
Cc: [David Canepa](#); [Rickey Tse](#); [Chris Lee](#); [Allison Brown](#); [George S. Tagnipes](#); [Stephanie Green](#); [Public Advisor](#); [Sarah Yoell](#); [Sidney Dietz](#); [Bill Chiang](#); [Sherman III, Earl R@DOT](#); [Wilson, Paul@DOT](#); [Polillo, Mark L@DOT](#); [Medina, Rico \[rmedina@sanbruno.ca.gov\]](#); [Marty Medina](#); [Michael Callagy](#); [jnibbelin@smcgov.org](#); [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#); [cacsecretary \[@samtrans.com\]](#); [Dubost, Tina](#); [De La Torre, Andria](#); [scott.campbell@ssf.net](#); [O'Connor Matthew](#); [Acosta Rosa](#); [Sean Curmi](#); [Ken Chetcuti](#); [Danny Gil](#); [Steven Massoni](#); [Fahmida Murphy](#); [All Council](#); [Mike Futrell](#); [Kathleen Walsh](#); [ron.carlino@ssf.net](#); [Nell Selander](#); [tony.rozzi@ssf.net](#); [Pine, Dave \[dpine@smcgov.org\]](#); [Jon Mays](#); [Austin Walsh](#); [Kim Eunejune](#); [Ann Stillman](#)
Subject: Re: CalMatters: PGE fails fire prevention / CPUC gets blame (link)
Date: Monday, March 28, 2022 2:50:47 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from caltrans.d4@dot.ca.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders.

Good day, Mr. Harris,

Thank you for contacting Caltrans regarding your concerns about overgrown trees and/or brush in San Francisco County, on El Camino Real between Arlington and Hickey. As you have mentioned there are several entities that are held responsible for this stretch of roadway; however, if your concerns directly impact Caltrans established right-a-way, the best action would be to create a Customer Service Request (CSR) on the website portal at: www.crs.dot.ca.gov.

On this website, you can create a ticket that goes directly to maintenance for review and resolution if it is found that this is within Caltrans right-a-way. If after 30-days this matter has not been resolved, you may email this account or call our customer service helpline at (510) 286-6173 for a status check using the assigned six-digit CSR ticket number provided once you've submitted your request.

You will need to contact the other entities directly that may be involved regarding this stretch of roadway, i.e. City and County of San Francisco, Pacific Gas & Electric, and AT&T.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know. Thank you. Have a wonderful day.

Respectfully,

Chiconda V Davis,
D4 - Customer Service Liaison
(510) 286-6173 / Customer Service Helpline

From: MICHAEL HARRIS <usmmmh@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 10:05 PM

To: presidentreynoldsexparte@cpuc.ca.gov <presidentreynoldsexparte@cpuc.ca.gov>; Rachel A. Peterson <rachel.peterson@cpuc.ca.gov>

Cc: David Canepa <david@davidcanepa.com>; Rickey Tse <rickey.tse@cpuc.ca.gov>; Chris Lee <chris.lee@cpuc.ca.gov>; Allison Brown <allison.brown@cpuc.ca.gov>; George S. Tagnipes <george.tagnipes@cpuc.ca.gov>; Stephanie Green <stephanie.green@cpuc.ca.gov>; Public. Advisor <public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov>; Sarah Yoell <sarah.yoell@pge.com>; Sidney Dietz <sbd4@pge.com>; Bill Chiang <wwc9@pge.com>; Sherman III, Earl R@DOT <earl.sherman.III@dot.ca.gov>; Wilson, Paul@DOT <paul.wilson@dot.ca.gov>; Polillo, Mark L@DOT <mark.polillo@dot.ca.gov>; Caltrans D4@DOT <caltrans.d4@dot.ca.gov>; Rico Medina <rmedina@sanbruno.ca.gov>; Marty Medina <mmedina@sanbruno.ca.gov>; Michael Callagy <mcallagy@smcgov.org>; jnibbelin@smcgov.org <jnibbelin@smcgov.org>; board@samtrans.com <board@samtrans.com>; cacsecretary@samtrans.com <cacsecretary@samtrans.com>; Tina Dubost <dubostc@samtrans.com>; Andria De La Torre <delatorrea@samtrans.com>; scott.campbell@ssf.net <scott.campbell@ssf.net>; O'Connor Matthew <matthew.o'connor@ssf.net>; Acosta Rosa <rosa.acosta@ssf.net>; Sean Curmi <sean.curmi@ssf.net>; Ken Chetcuti <ken.chetcuti@ssf.net>; Danny Gil <danny.gil@ssf.net>; Steven Massoni <steven.massoni@ssf.net>; Fahmida Murphy <fahmida.murphy@ssf.net>; All Council <council@ssf.net>; Mike Futrell <mike.futrell@ssf.net>; Kathleen Walsh <kathleen.walsh@ssf.net>; ron.carlino@ssf.net <ron.carlino@ssf.net>; Nell Selander <nell.selander@ssf.net>; tony.rozzi@ssf.net <tony.rozzi@ssf.net>; Dave Pine <dpine@smcgov.org>; Jon Mays <jon@smdailyjournal.com>; Austin Walsh <austin@smdailyjournal.com>; Kim Eunejune <eunejune.kim@ssf.net>; Ann Stillman <astillman@smcgov.org>

Subject: CalMatters: PGE fails fire prevention / CPUC gets blame (link)

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.

<https://calmatters.org/environment/2022/03/wildfires-california-utilities-prevention/>

David Canepa, Michael Richardson & I have tried to get a Monterey Cypress tree tangled in PGE / ATT cables along a bad stretch of road trimmed since June 2021.

El Camino Real from Hickey to Arlington has been a disaster 70+ years.

Paul Wilson & Mark Polillo cut away some branches into the lower ATT lines Dec 2021.

CPUC needs to do their job so we can improve this bad road.

It is not ADA improved or compliant.

Walkers, bikers, wheel chairs cannot travel this short stretch of road.

There are 9 PGE poles without lights from Arlington to Hickey on the west side of the road.

An elderly woman came before SSF CC 10+ years ago after an accident on this road because she could not see well enough.
She was very upset. The SSF CC was not the least concerned.

My next attempt will be to write the State Auditor & file a DOJ ADA complaint.

Paul Wilson's crew did what they could on an emergency basis.
There are too many cooks in the kitchen on this ongoing fiasco.
A new Caltrans tree trimming contract is needed soonest.

SSF has a 1990 MOU to do some work on the road.

The PGE 12000 VAC lines must be secured before any tree trimmers get near these lines.

I requested Captain Mike Futrell to get the survey monuments reestablished too.
The brush must be cleared first.

Dispatching emergency vehicles in traffic accidents puts officers in danger too.
See some nightmare stories on <http://www.officer.com> for current stories.

SSF PD has visited this area many times since I started complaining.
This should come before the March SSF PD TAC meeting next week.

My seagoing job was Safety of Life at Sea.

Have a nice weekend,
Mike

From: [MICHAEL HARRIS](#)
To: presidentreynoldsexparte@cpuc.ca.gov; [Rachel A. Peterson](#)
Cc: [David Canepa](#); [Rickey Tse](#); [Chris Lee](#); [Allison Brown](#); [George S. Tagnipes](#); [Stephanie Green](#); [Public. Advisor](#); [Sarah Yoell](#); [Sidney Dietz](#); [Bill Chiang](#); earl.sherman.iii@dot.ca.gov; paul.wilson@dot.ca.gov; mark.polillo@dot.ca.gov; caltrans_d4@dot.ca.gov; Medina_Rico@sanbruno.ca.gov; [Marty Medina](#); [Michael Callagy](#); jnibbelin@smcgov.org; Board_@samtrans.com; cacsecretary_@samtrans.com; [Dubost, Tina](#); [De La Torre, Andria](#); scott.campbell@ssf.net; [O'Connor Matthew](#); [Acosta Rosa](#); [Sean Curmi](#); [Ken Chetcuti](#); [Danny Gil](#); [Steven Massoni](#); [Fahmida Murphy](#); [All Council](#); [Mike Futrell](#); [Kathleen Walsh](#); ron.carlino@ssf.net; [Nell Selander](#); tony.rozzi@ssf.net; Pine_Dave@smcgov.org; [Jon Mays](#); [Austin Walsh](#); [Kim Eunejune](#); [Ann Stillman](#)
Subject: CalMatters: PGE fails fire prevention / CPUC gets blame (link)
Date: Friday, March 25, 2022 10:05:16 PM

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<https://calmatters.org/environment/2022/03/wildfires-california-utilities-prevention/>

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