

SAMTRANS
CORRESPONDENCE
as of 12-3-2021

Seamans, Dora

From: Kyla Valenti <kylalee515@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 1:39 PM
To: Public Comment
Cc: Rosa Ulloa
Subject: Public comment

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Dear SamTrans:

It has come to my attention that SamTrans intends to discontinue Route 295 bus service to Cordilleras Center.

I am writing to express why this would be a grave disservice for members served at Cordilleras.

As you may know, Cordilleras is home to over 100 county residents in recovery from a range of psychological conditions. Half of these are residents of a psychosocial rehabilitation program, the Cordilleras Suites, where residents work to increase their independent living skills and transition to community living.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, SamTrans buses were an integral part of helping these residents regain a sense of autonomy and connect to the broader community. For many years, residents used SamTrans to commute to work and to job rehabilitation programs, attend appointments, shop for essentials, and connect with family and friends. This single SamTrans bus, which arrives daily at 8:45am and at 4:32pm, is many resident's primary mode of independent transportation.

Out of sheer necessity, residents' SamTrans ridership fell during the COVID-19 pandemic. For over a year, the bus drove through, and nobody got on. Because they live in a congregate setting, residents understood the gravity of the COVID-19 pandemic and willingly abstained from using the bus. This was not because we, the staff, told them they couldn't ride it. Residents demonstrated an ingrained sense of social responsibility and abstained from riding for the good of their community -- both at Cordilleras throughout the county.

SamTrans has an opportunity to continue to support these residents as they strive toward greater independence and access to healthcare, economic and social opportunities. I am writing to plead that SamTrans honors the sacrifices our residents made during the COVID-19 pandemic by continuing bus service to Cordilleras Center.

Kyla Valenti

Sent from my iPad