

**SAMTRANS**  
**CORRESPONDENCE**  
**as of 7-1-2022**

**From:** [John Baker](#)  
**To:** [Wegener, Christy](#)  
**Cc:** [Rivas, Ana](#); [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Request Letter from SSFHS student  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 29, 2022 5:54:13 PM  
**Attachments:** [Nicole Cortez - Write A Letter To Your Representative!.pdf](#)

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from [jbaker@ssfusd.org](mailto:jbaker@ssfusd.org). [Learn why this is important](#)

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Received in my capacity as SSFUSD President, passing on to SamTrans planning, as she is asking for better east side of SSF service. I also told her that the SSFUSD Board will agendize a support letter for AB 1919 (Youth Transit Pass Pilot Program), so you may be hearing more from SSFUSD on that front in the future.

Cheers,

John Baker  
SamTrans CAC member and SSFUSD Board President

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Nicole Cortez <[official.ncortez@gmail.com](mailto:official.ncortez@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Request Letter  
**Date:** May 19, 2022 at 14:45:58 PDT  
**To:** [jbaker@ssfusd.org](mailto:jbaker@ssfusd.org)

**[EXTERNAL]** Caution: This email originated from outside our organization. Please take care before responding until you verify the sender's identity.

04/07/22

Nicole Cortez

South San Francisco High School

400 B St, South San Francisco, CA 94080

Dear SSFUSD and Samtrans CAC,

My name is Nicole Cortez, I am a first-gen Salvadoran-American and go by she/her/ella pronouns. I am currently in the 11th grade at South San Francisco High School. I am involved in several clubs like Animal Rescue Club, CSF, and National Honor Society as well as in the school's cheer squad, the upcoming senior vice president, and an AP student. My interests include cheer, STEM, and activism. I am also a student whose only reliable transportation is the Samtrans bus service and has taken advantage of the newly released pilot program, Youth Unlimited.

All my life I have mostly relied on public transportation and it was the only way my mother and I could get around the county, something many can relate to. Unfortunately, this means spending an estimate of 60 dollars every month. 60 dollars is a lot to a family like mine who struggles financially. When it comes to public transportation, the majority of riders tend to be minorities and in the low-income range. The cost of transportation is burdensome to many low-income families, becoming an issue of discrimination. Considering that public transportation is a government-funded program it should be free for everyone. This may be impossible now but may become a possibility in our futures. Right now, it is important that our youth gain accessibility to public transit, especially those who have low resources. For example, the city of San Francisco has established a policy where anyone under 18 rides free with no restrictions like income. Not only are these programs much needed but getting access to a route that rides straight to school is incredibly difficult. While a South City bus is currently active, it is only active in the Serramonte area. This route should also be established along the East Side and Downtown (both predominantly low-income minorities) areas of the city. I am also well aware that the South City Free Shuttle is also active around the city and stops next to the school. This bus is very small, only being able to seat very few people and does not have the same accommodations as a standard bus. On school days, this bus is often crowded and has little ventilation. As a frequent rider myself, I notice the disparities within our transportation agency that violate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Other than our problematic route map, no other programs had been initiated before the Youth Unlimited program, which is why it is so valuable to our youth.

We demand more routes going to and from school to the other areas of South San Francisco. New routes can and should be established this upcoming school year. These routes should cover the East Side to Mayfair Village areas, stopping at the same South City bus stop. Setting apart a bus for this should be no problem considering the expected costs of this year to be around 476 million dollars. The Youth Unlimited Program should also be permanently

established for our youth's future starting June 2022. If necessary, I am willing to start a petition to gain support on these issues.

I hope we can come to an agreement and will be in contact soon.

Sincerely,

Nicole Cortez