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July 11, 2022

The Honorable Lena Gonzalez
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
State Capitol, Room 405
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1919 (Holden) Youth Transit Pass Pilot Program: Free Youth Transit Passes – SUPPORT.

Dear Chair Gonzalez:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), I write in support of AB 1919 (as amended), which would create a new state program to help California's transit agencies create or expand fare free programs for students or individuals aged 18 and under.

In addition, SamTrans is especially appreciative of amendments made to the bill that addressed concerns raised by the transit industry, including creating a voluntary program instead of a requirement that all transit agencies provide fare-free transit without a full funding source.

SamTrans is dedicated to helping young people in San Mateo County travel safely and conveniently. We currently offer discounted fares for passengers 18 and younger. In an effort to help further reduce transportation costs for low-income families and attract new and more frequent riders, SamTrans recently partnered with the San Mateo County Office of Education to launch the *Youth Unlimited Pilot Program* - providing free bus fares for Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students throughout the County.

Throughout the course of the six month pilot, over 9,600 *Youth Unlimited* passes were distributed and in response to its success, the SamTrans Board of Directors has voted to make the program permanent. We are hopeful that the enactment of AB 1919 will help us expand and continue this program.

As we all work to provide safe, sustainable and reliable transit options for our riders, SamTrans commends Assembly Member Holden's efforts to create a new generation of transit users, help underserved youth and reduce the number of cars on the road.

In closing, I want to again express appreciation to Assembly Member Holden, bill sponsors, and the policy committees in both houses for their willingness to amend AB

Honorable Lena Gonzalez

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1919. The bill before you today is much improved and SamTrans is pleased to voice our support for it.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carter Mau".

Carter Mau
Acting General Manager/CEO

Cc: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors
San Mateo County Transit District State Legislative Delegation