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CARTER MAU
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

August 29, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2622 (Mullin) Signature Request

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), I write to respectfully request that you SIGN AB 2622 (Mullin). This bill would extend the sunset date on the state sales and use tax exemption for zero-emission buses (ZEBs) purchased by California public transit agencies from January 1, 2024 to January 1, 2026.

In 2019, AB 784 (Mullin) was signed into law, which provides an exemption from state sales and use taxes for ZEBs purchased by California public transit agencies. The intent behind this bill was to further encourage California public transit agencies to purchase ZEBs over conventionally fueled buses and to aid transit agencies in complying with the California Air Resource Board's (CARB) Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) regulation by reducing the upfront costs for these currently more expensive technologies. The ICT regulation requires public transit agencies to completely transition their bus fleets to zero-emission technologies by 2040. AB 2622 would further encourage transit agencies to accelerate the purchase of ZEBs to address climate change and improve air quality, consistent with the ICT regulation.

For many transit agencies, making the transition to a fully zero-emission fleet is cost prohibitive. We project that this sales and use tax exemption, if extended, would continue to save transit agencies between \$30,000 and \$50,000 on each ZEB they purchase. The money saved would allow transit agencies to purchase additional ZEBs or fund other aspects of the transition, such as charging infrastructure. Currently our fleet is comprised of two ZEBs, with 47 on order for an anticipated delivery starting in 2023.

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Gavin Newsom
August 29, 2022
Page **2** of **2**

SamTrans has long-supported efforts promoting the transition to clean transportation and we hope that you will sign AB 2622 at the appropriate time. Thank you for your consideration and if you have any questions, please contact Government and Community Affairs Manager Jessica Epstein at epsteinj@samtrans.com if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Carter Mau
Acting General Manger/CEO

cc: The Honorable Kevin Mullin, California State Assembly
San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors
San Mateo County Transit District State Legislative Delegation

From: [Chris Dacumos](#)
To: [Chris Dacumos](#)
Subject: Notice of Preparation of an EIR - Four Corners Mixed Use Project - East Palo Alto
Date: Friday, September 2, 2022 12:34:51 PM
Attachments: [NOP Four Corners EIR -- 2022.09.02.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from cdacumos@cityofepa.org. [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 afternoon,

Please find attached a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Four Corners mixed use project located at 1675 Bay Road in East Palo Alto. The City of East Palo Alto is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act responsible for preparing the EIR.

The NOP describes the project, its location, potential environmental effects that will be evaluated through the environmental review, and how to provide comment on what environmental impacts may need to be considered and studied. The NOP will be circulated from **September 2 to October 3, 2022.**

The City will host an EIR Scoping meeting on the project during the **September 26, 2022** Planning Commission meeting. Details on how to participate during the meeting are provided within the NOP.

Additional information on this project can be viewed at:

<https://www.cityofepa.org/planning/project/1675-bay-road-four-corners-dr20-018>



1675 Bay Road - Four Corners DR20-018 | City of East Palo Alto

Address/Location: 1675 Bay Road. APN: 063-111-250 Zoning: 4 Corners (Ravenswood Specific Plan) Applicant: Sand Hill Property Company Mike Kramer Project No: Design Review Application DR20-018 Project Description: Create a community-informed plan containing multi-

www.cityofepa.org

Christopher Dacumos
Consultant Senior Planner

Community & Economic Development
City of East Palo Alto
1960 Tate Street
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
www.cityofepa.org

Email: cdacumos@cityofepa.org

Phone: 650-853-3159

August 17, 2022

Nicole Cortez
400 B St
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Nicole:

Thank you for contacting the SamTrans Citizens Advisory Committee, though we are sorry to see it was due to inadequacies you found in the SamTrans bus service. We can assure you that providing the community with safe, reliable, and—of course—equitable transit service is a top priority of SamTrans.

Some exciting news to share, you may have heard, is that at their July meeting, the SamTrans Board of Directors approved a program that will permanently give low-income students free rides on all SamTrans buses. This program is in partnership with the San Mateo County Office of Education.

In addition, earlier this year, the Board approved a set of changes to the SamTrans bus network through a project known as *Reimagine SamTrans*. This final recommended network was crafted after careful consideration of what we heard from the public, from over 200 outreach meetings and thousands of comments and survey responses over the course of two and a half years. We are now using the input to implement a new, streamlined bus network with brand new routes and connections, faster and more direct routes, simpler, easier to understand routes and improved frequency.

Details on the free ride passes, or on the implementation of *Reimagine SamTrans* can be found on our website at www.samtrans.com.

Please note, as part of *Reimagine SamTrans* process, SamTrans completed a comprehensive Title VI Service Equity Analysis as required by the Federal Transit Administration. The full report can be found <https://www.samtrans.com/files/2022-05/Reimagine%20SamTrans%20Title%20VI%20Report%20%E2%80%93February%202022.pdf>

Similarly, the District takes violations of Title VI seriously. If you would like to file a complaint, please reach out to the Title VI Administrator at titlevi@samtrans.com.

Again, thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts. Feedback from SamTrans customers is an important part of our process in keeping our transit system a high-quality and community-oriented service.

If you have any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out again. The easiest way to do so is by calling the SamTrans Customer Service Center at 1-800-660-4287 or visiting the Contact Us page at www.samtrans.com. Thank you.

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

From: [Brook, Jean](#)
To: [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: Resident complaint about bus line and red-wheels
Date: Monday, August 29, 2022 3:24:38 PM

From: Salandanan, Jan Alexis <SalandananJ@samtrans.com>
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2022 11:55 AM
To: Epstein, Jessica <EpsteinJ@samtrans.com>; Nabong, Sarah <nabongs@samtrans.com>
Cc: Petrik, Michaela <PetrikM@samtrans.com>
Subject: RE: Resident complaint about bus line and red-wheels

Also, responded to Avni's email with the below message:

Good morning.

Thank you taking the time send us your suggestion. I will pass this matter along to the correct internal people.

Kind regards,

Alexis Salandanan
San Mateo County Transit District
Customer Service Dept.
1250 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306
1-800-660-4287
www.smctd.com

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From: [Brook, Jean](#)
To: [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: Bus Route Changes Complaints
Date: Monday, August 29, 2022 9:55:35 AM

From: Salandanan, Jan Alexis <SalandananJ@samtrans.com>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 5:33 PM
To: Epstein, Jessica <EpsteinJ@samtrans.com>; Nabong, Sarah <nabongs@samtrans.com>
Cc: Brook, Jean <BrookJ@samtrans.com>; Petrik, Michaela <PetrikM@samtrans.com>
Subject: RE: Bus Route Changes Complaints

Just sent this in response to the first email:

To the Mahadevan family,

Thank you for reaching out. SamTrans takes feedback from our customers seriously, and we appreciate you bringing your concerns to our attention.

The service change on Route 286, now Route 86, was a recommendation from a multi-year long transit planning study called *Reimagine SamTrans*, which examined ridership data, transit needs in areas of the County with high transit dependency, as well as feedback from our community over the course of several years. Reimagine SamTrans considered pre-pandemic ridership, ridership as schools reopened, and most recently, ridership data from Fall 2021. The Reimagine SamTrans final plan was adopted by our SamTrans Board of Directors in March 2022.

The new Board-approved network emphasizes service to the communities that rely on and utilize the SamTrans service the most. Additionally, the network aims to create faster and more direct routes, simpler and easier to understand routes, and improved frequency. In order to make the service improvements the plan identified, some trips on routes and segments of routes with low ridership in non-equity priority areas were reallocated to high need communities. The portion of Route 286 that served Portola Valley underperformed compared to other school-focused routes, and this route does not serve residential areas designated as equity priority areas.

We recognize that there are transit needs throughout the County, but we unfortunately do not have the resources to provide service wherever it is wanted. With limited resources, this becomes a hard choice where SamTrans considers multiple factors. Rest assured, however, our planning process is dynamic and we continuously assess information about increased demand, as well as overall ridership, rider and operator feedback, system efficiency, and on-time performance to ensure our resources are in the right places.

Kind regards,

Alexis Salandanan
San Mateo County Transit District
Customer Service Dept.

1250 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306
1-800-660-4287
www.smctd.com

For Josh Richman, though, I was his first point of contact—as the email shows. I can send another response to him, but it would really be telling him the same thing a different way. Here is the original correspondence:

To Josh Richman,

Yes, of course. Our Board of Directors meets at our central headquarters in San Carlos at 2:00 PM on the first Wednesday of the month. The next one will be on the 7th of September at 1250 San Carlos Ave, San Carlos, CA 94070.

And there is indeed a period for public comment. However, I believe comments to the Board need to be submitted beforehand and no later than 2:00 PM the day before the meeting. You can submit comments by email to board@samtrans.com, by fax at 650-508-6281, or by writing to 1250 San Carlos Ave, P.O. Box 3006, San Carlos, CA 94070-1306.

You can read more about this on our website: <https://www.samtrans.com/about-samtrans/board-directors>.

Kind regards,

Alexis Salandanan
San Mateo County Transit District
Customer Service Dept.
1250 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306
1-800-660-4287
www.smctd.com

From: Josh Richman <joshrichman@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 9:23 AM
To: Salandanan, Jan Alexis <SalandananJ@samtrans.com>
Subject: Re: Samtrans Comment - 852714

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Hi Jan

Thank you for your note. The staff monitoring the situation is not going to get our kids to and from school safely so we need to find a better path forward.

I understand there is an upcoming board meeting. Can you please let me know when and where it is and if there is a period for public comment? Our concerns have not yet been addressed and the family members whose lives this is impacting want to make sure our

challenges are heard and work towards a resolution

Thank you

Josh

From: "Salandanan, Jan Alexis" <SalandananJ@samtrans.com>

Date: Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 11:25 AM

To: "joshrichman@gmail.com" <joshrichman@gmail.com>

Subject: Samtrans Comment - 852714

To Josh Richman,

Thank you for contacting SamTrans with your concerns about our timetable update for Route 86. We sincerely apologize for the trouble this has caused you and your family. Please rest assured, though, that we are not making these decisions lightly.

The reason Route 86 does not currently serve the Ladera and Portola Valley area is due to the performance of its predecessor, Route 286. *Reimagine SamTrans* considered pre-pandemic ridership, ridership as schools reopened, and most recently, ridership from Fall 2021. The 286 deviation that served Portola Valley underperformed compared to other school-focused routes and is not in an equity-priority area. Due to limited resources, we had to prioritize areas with the greatest transit needs in order to ensure our service is distributed as effectively as possible

Staff will closely monitor the performance of the new network alongside community and operator feedback. To that end, know that your comments regarding this change was forwarded to the proper parties. However, as noted earlier, while we carefully consider feedback we receive, please keep in mind that we are working with limited resources. But to hopefully provide you with some measure of reassurance, know that our goal at SamTrans is still the same: to provide our community with the best and most equitable service we can possibly offer.

Kind regards,

Alexis Salandanan

San Mateo County Transit District

Customer Service Dept.

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1-800-660-4287

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From: Epstein, Jessica <EpsteinJ@samtrans.com>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 2:25 PM
To: Salandanan, Jan Alexis <SalandananJ@samtrans.com>; Nabong, Sarah <nabongs@samtrans.com>
Cc: Brook, Jean <BrookJ@samtrans.com>; Petrik, Michaela <PetrikM@samtrans.com>
Subject: FW: Bus Route Changes Complaints

More Route 86 responses please. Send back to this email so Jean can record the response.

From: Brook, Jean <BrookJ@samtrans.com>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 2:23 PM
To: Epstein, Jessica <EpsteinJ@samtrans.com>; Petrik, Michaela <PetrikM@samtrans.com>
Subject: Bus Route Changes Complaints

From: [Avni C Shah](#)
To: [Salandanan, Jan Alexis](#); [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#); [Rajiv Mahadevan](#)
Subject: Re: Need for SamTrans service in Ladera Community (Alpine Road)
Date: Sunday, August 28, 2022 4:06:30 PM

You don't often get email from avnicshah@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

On Sun, Aug 28, 2022 at 3:51 PM Avni C Shah <avnicshah@gmail.com> wrote:

Could SamTrans 87/Woodside HS and SamTrans 86/MA HS coordinate timings & location (kids would just change buses midway) at least for the afternoon? Are there other buses that could coordinate?

On Fri, Aug 26, 2022 at 5:30 PM Salandanan, Jan Alexis <SalandananJ@samtrans.com> wrote:

To the Mahadevan family,

Thank you for reaching out. SamTrans takes feedback from our customers seriously, and we appreciate you bringing your concerns to our attention.

The service change on Route 286, now Route 86, was a recommendation from a multi-year long transit planning study called [Reimagine SamTrans](#), which examined ridership data, transit needs in areas of the County with high transit dependency, as well as feedback from our community over the course of several years. Reimagine SamTrans considered pre-pandemic ridership, ridership as schools reopened, and most recently, ridership data from Fall 2021. The Reimagine SamTrans final plan was adopted by our SamTrans Board of Directors in March 2022.

The new Board-approved network emphasizes service to the communities that rely on and utilize the SamTrans service the most. Additionally, the network aims to create faster and more direct routes, simpler and easier to understand routes, and improved frequency. In order to make the service improvements the plan identified, some trips on routes and segments of routes with low ridership in non-equity priority areas were reallocated to high need communities. The portion of Route 286 that served Portola Valley underperformed compared to other school-focused routes, and this route does not serve residential areas designated as equity priority areas.

We recognize that there are transit needs throughout the County, but we unfortunately do not have the resources to provide service wherever it is wanted. With limited resources, this becomes a hard choice where SamTrans considers multiple factors. Rest assured,

however, our planning process is dynamic and we continuously assess information about increased demand, as well as overall ridership, rider and operator feedback, system efficiency, and on-time performance to ensure our resources are in the right places.

Kind regards,

Alexis Salandanan

San Mateo County Transit District

Customer Service Dept.

1250 San Carlos Avenue

San Carlos, CA 94070-1306

1-800-660-4287

www.smctd.com

To whom it may concern:

Our daughter, Lila, just started her freshman year at Menlo Atherton High School. We did not find out till a few days before school started that the SamTrans bus she/we were depending on was cancelled based on their study of its ridership over a three year period. We contacted the school admin, Nick Muys, who suggested we should write to you.

Question:

What years was the 3 yr study done for ridership? If during the COVID years, then please consider the possibility that ridership was low due to school being closed or other concerns of parents/children in riding the bus.

Other Points:

- 1) We have at least 7 kids who require a ride to/from MA HS from the Ladera Community off Alpine Road (border of Menlo Park and Portola Valley). They all have stated (I have a list) they need this Bus.
- 2) My husband and I are scrambling every day to get our daughter to/from HS. This is not sustainable as we both work full time.
- 3) Please see the email my daughter sent out to our community below.

The Ask:

We are asking to please bring back the SamTrans public transportation to our community.

Warmly,

Rajiv, Avni, & Lila

Hello All,

I am going to be a freshman at MA High School this year and was planning on taking the SamTrans public transportation bus to school and back everyday. Unfortunately, MA has recently notified everyone that the route that the SamTrans has usually taken has now changed and no longer includes transport to and from Portola Valley (due to low ridership over the last couple of years).

We have sent an email to VP Nick Muys who handles transportation at MA. He sent this message today: "We are trying to figure out a solution. I will give you a call tomorrow to further hear your concerns and will continue to explore all possible options on my end."

In the meantime, my mom (Avni) and I were brainstorming the following options as she and my dad work full time and can't take me to and from MA every day and potentially others are in a similar position:

1. If there are enough people who want to take the bus, we were told it may be possible to petition/advocate to get SamTrans to add Portola Valley/Ladera back into their route.
2. If people are interested in creating a carpool system to and from MA, please fill out the same spreadsheet above, which will allow everyone to see different people in need of transportation and people offering rides, as well as phone numbers or emails so you can reach out to someone separately to finalize a carpool arrangement.
3. There are other stops where people can drop off/pick up kids. The closest looks like Sharon Park/Sharon (SamTrans 86) but we can't take it on Thursday AM's as it doesn't leave till 8:40 AM.
4. Any other ideas? advice?

Thanks,
Lila Mahadevan
Avni Shah (Mom)

From: [Avni C Shah](#)
To: [Salandanan, Jan Alexis](#); [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#)
Subject: Re: Need for SamTrans service in Ladera Community (Alpine Road)
Date: Sunday, August 28, 2022 3:52:04 PM

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San Mateo County Transit District

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1-800-660-4287

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Thanks,
Lila Mahadevan
Avni Shah (Mom)