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**as of 5-26-2023**



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GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

April 25, 2023

The Honorable Chris Holden  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 463 (Hart) Electricity: Prioritization of Service: Public Transit Vehicles – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Holden,

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), I write today in **SUPPORT** of AB 463 (Hart). This bill would provide transit agencies with priority access to electricity when facing grid disruptions caused by natural or man-made disasters, rolling blackouts, utility company “Public Safety Power Shutoffs” (PSPS), and increasing demand on California’s electrical grid.

Policies mandating the adoption of zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) in both the public and private sector will greatly increase the number of electricity-reliant vehicles on California’s roads. This sharp increase in ZEVs places increased demand for electricity on a grid that already struggles to reliably meet current needs. This condition is worsened by regular heat waves that result in “flex alerts” and rolling blackouts, and is further exacerbated by a greater number of compulsory PSPS events related to California’s constant wildfire threat.

SamTrans is transitioning its bus fleet to 100% zero emission vehicles, including battery electric buses, which will increase the agency’s reliance on electricity. If SamTrans loses access to electricity when flex alerts are in place or during a PSPS event, the agency will not be able to power the recharging systems that battery electric buses rely upon. It is necessary to grant priority access to electricity for transit agencies during outages so that they can continue to provide essential public transportation service to riders, many of whom are transit reliant.

This bill would simply add transit agencies to the already-existing list of first responders and essential customers that have priority access to electricity during power outages. This authorization would incur negligible costs to the state, as there may be relatively minor expenses associated with expanding electricity access.

SamTrans has long-supported efforts easing the transition to clean transportation technologies and now we request your support in allowing transit agencies to maintain operations during disasters and outages. We are pleased to **SUPPORT** AB 463 (Hart).

///

**SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT**  
1250 San Carlos Ave. – P.O. Box 3006  
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306 (650) 508-6200

The Honorable Chris Holden

April 25, 2023

Page 2 of 2

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

Sincerely,



April Chan  
General Manager/CEO

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

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1250 SAN CARLOS AVE  
SAN CARLOS, CA 94070  
(650) 508-6200

April 25, 2023

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry  
Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 157  
Sacramento, CA

**RE: AB 817 (Pacheco) Brown Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Aguiar-Curry,

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) and San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA), I write today in **SUPPORT** of AB 817 (Pacheco), which would modify the Ralph M. Brown Act in a way that better serves our communities and recognizes the significant advancements to remote meeting technology happening today.

As currently constituted, the Brown Act casts a wide net when it comes to defining legislative bodies. This bill would provide the necessary flexibility for advisory bodies that can take no action or establish policy on behalf of a local elected body to continue to return to meeting remotely without having to follow quorum, location notification, and accessibility requirements required by the Brown Act and/or AB 2449 (Rubio). Our agencies have several advisory committees to help guide our work, such as the SamTrans and TA Citizens Advisory Committees, which consist of members of the public, most of whom work outside jobs unrelated to the effort they put in for our agencies.

Providing additional flexibility for these non-decision-making advisory bodies to meet remotely will incentivize and enable participation from well-qualified, interested individuals, while allowing them to maintain unrelated commitments for work, school, and their families. It will also improve the ability of members of historically underserved and underrepresented communities, and those who live and/or work far from their local government offices, to participate in advisory bodies. Recruitment for these committees is difficult and the ability for members to participate from home, without sacrificing their privacy by publishing their addresses and opening their doors to all who may wish to enter, dramatically reduces the burdens of serving.

For these reasons, we **SUPPORT** AB 817. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact Government and Community Affairs Manager Jessica Epstein at [epsteinj@samtrans.com](mailto:epsteinj@samtrans.com) if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "April Chan".

April Chan  
General Manager/CEO and Executive Director

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

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1250 SAN CARLOS AVE  
SAN CARLOS, CA 94070  
(650) 508-6200

April 25, 2023

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry  
1021 O Street, Suite 6350  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
*Transmitted via Electronic Mail*

**RE: ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry) Local Infrastructure Funding – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry,

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) and the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA), I write to you in **SUPPORT** of ACA 1. This measure would lower the voter-threshold for the imposition, extension or increase of a special tax by a local government for affordable housing and infrastructure (transportation, sea-level rise, etc.), from two-thirds to 55 percent.

As you know, the California Constitution conditions the imposition of a special tax by a city, county, or special district upon the approval of two-thirds of the voters of the city, county, or special district voting on that tax. In 2018, the Measure W ½ cent sales tax in San Mateo County passed by 66.87 percent of the vote, only .2 percent above the two-thirds requirement. San Mateo County was on the brink of losing out on an estimated \$2 billion in transit and transportation funding. In other jurisdictions, this supermajority requirement has resulted in several major local transportation sales tax proposals narrowly failing passage.

By lowering the voter-threshold for a special tax for local projects from two-thirds to 55 percent, this constitutional amendment would provide a city, county or special district with a renewed ability to generate new revenue to fund much-needed local infrastructure and housing projects that increase access to housing, jobs & schools, reduce traffic congestion, address climate change, and improve air quality.

For these reasons, we **SUPPORT** ACA 1 and appreciate your efforts to make it easier for local agencies to access additional funding as the state and local agencies continue to face significant shortfalls. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact Government and Community Affairs Manager Jessica Epstein at [epsteinj@samtrans.com](mailto:epsteinj@samtrans.com) if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "April Chan".

April Chan  
General Manager/CEO and Executive Director

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

**From:** [David Harvey](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** complaint about a sam trans ride  
**Date:** Friday, May 26, 2023 10:47:39 AM

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On the 120 bus heading towards Colma Bart the bus driver put his hand on me. He could have instructed me to stop without letting go of the wheel and touching me. This made me extremely angry and uncomfortable. I have the ability to listen to directions without being touched. I wear a neon yellow headband on my head. This happened right when we got off the bus around 11:11 p.m. on May 25, 2023.

David Harvey

**From:** [MICHAEL HARRIS](#)  
**To:** [phil.ting@asm.ca.gov](mailto:phil.ting@asm.ca.gov)  
**Cc:** [Mark Chekal](#); [Jeffrey Tong](#); [Valerie Keech](#); [Amy Ferguson](#); [Mueller, Raymond \[rmueller@smcgov.org\]](mailto:Mueller.Raymond@smcgov.org); [Baker, John C.](#); [Andria De La Torre](#); [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board (@samtrans.com)); [Rona Rios](#); [Tina Dubost](#); [cacsecretary \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:cacsecretary (@samtrans.com)); [Dora Seamans](#); [Jan Alexis Salandanan](#); [Everything South City](#); [Pat Murray](#); [Jon Mays](#)  
**Subject:** Transit funding (Thank You)  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 24, 2023 7:01:23 PM

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Thank you Phil,

Samtrans accountability has been poor.

Rolling stock is in good shape.  
Buses are clean & comfortable.

I rode 130 to Serramonte, then walked up hill to Seton MC Tuesday.

I took the 122 back down from Seton to Serramonte.  
I boarded the 130 after 15 minute wait.

I took the 130 to Hickey & El Camino Real stop.  
I shopped Grocery Outlet.

I called last week for new transit maps.  
San Carlos staff were polite & helpful.

My main complaint is the bus stop infrastructure, ADA compliance.

For many years I complained about the same bus stops over & over.

Karyl Matsumoto helped get the Arroyo Drive & El Camino Real broken glass repaired.  
The stop moved to south side of Arroyo. It is much improved.

I called several months ago about broken out glass at Serramonte transit hub.  
The broken windows are still broken.

In Reno, the age of seniority is age 60. All veterans are considered seniors.

When I visited my Reno home Feb 2020, I obtained a new transit card in less than 60 seconds.  
It is good ten years.

The nice lady took my photo & almost instantly brought back my new

transit card.

The Washoe bus system has passes. I bought several 7 days passes for \$5 each.

This is a better bargain than a 30 day pass.

It is activated the day you start using it. I think brought one home with me.

I am still dealing with the Oct 17, 2007 BART assault damage.

BART is very unsafe. Cars are dirty. Homeless ride the cars & sleep there too.

Kamala Harris / George Gascon / Tiffany Sutton / Alex Bastion / Judge Donna Alyson Little finished what the drunk who attacked me could not.

VAMC SF malpractice left me an invalid. Dr. Shabi Khan repaired their malpractice.

I had my 7th surgery Oct 28, 2020. Part of that was from a Dollar Tree fall.

The A/C joint arthritis was caused by both injuries.

I need a left shoulder replacement.

BART is a disaster. I will write Gavin when I get time. I asked for his help at a SF law office meeting for Jerry McNerney when Gavin was Mayor first term.

I got no help from Fiona Ma, Jerry Hill, Gene or Kevin Mullin, John Avalos or BART.

Losses now exceed \$600000. I must sell my Reno home to pay medical bills.

SF court has the \$100000. Medicare should get it. I will do my best.

I am 15 years into a life sentence.

I had more cortisone May 16. It will take another week to work.

I am slowed down until June 1.

I could not properly care for my Mom end of her life.

Mom broke her hip July 23, 2008. She did well after the surgery.

I took Mom to our last IWLU Bloody Thursday event July 9.

She almost fell departing a Market Street car returning.

I made a small mistake not getting on & off first.

I could have helped her down.



Mom bled to death at Killer Kaiser Dec 11, 2008. She survived sepsis & pneumonia.  
Her INR level went to 6.6. She bled to death. I missed her dying by 2 - 3 minutes.  
I buried Mom with Dad at GGNC Feb 13, 2009.

Killer Kaiser cannot be sued by a family.  
They would not allow me to get to arbitration.

Holding BART & Samtrans both accountable would help all who do not drive.

I have both breathing & orthopedic disabilities.  
I walked the steep front hill Serramonte to Seton MC past 2 Tuesdays.  
In 2016, I sometimes climbed the very steep rear hill.

North SMC bus stops, shelters, are marginal.

I asked David Canepa for help. He would not help.

I talked to Ray Mueller a few weeks ago. Maybe Ray can help.  
Ray is now on the Samtrans board.

I have fought injustice so long. I forget what else that I did in life.

Mike

**From:** [Mass Transit Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#)  
**To:** [Mass Transit Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Career Opportunities Await--Visit Mass Transit's Career Center  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 24, 2023 11:01:17 AM

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**From:** [Mass Transit Subscriptions Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Reminder: Complete your Mass Transit magazine renewal today!  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 24, 2023 10:25:17 AM

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**From:** [MICHAEL HARRIS](#)  
**To:** [phil.ting@asm.ca.gov](mailto:phil.ting@asm.ca.gov)  
**Cc:** [Mark Chekal](#); [Everything South City](#); [C. Marcopulos](#); [Tom Carney](#); [Tina Dubost](#); [Rona Rios](#); [Andria De La Torre](#); [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#); [cacsecretary \(@samtrans.com\)](#); [Baker John C.](#); [paul.wilson@dot.ca.gov](mailto:paul.wilson@dot.ca.gov); [earl.sherman.iii@dot.ca.gov](mailto:earl.sherman.iii@dot.ca.gov); [Sean Curmi](#); [Jon Mays](#)  
**Subject:** Cal Matters: Transit Agency Funding & Samtrans ADA problems  
**Date:** Monday, May 22, 2023 7:38:01 AM

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

I just saw the Cal Matters Transit Funding article.

I have fought Samtrans for poor North County bus stops, bus shelters, ADA problems for years.

These problems are in your district.

North County has been marginalized by Samtrans.

North County weather is worse than Central or South County weather.

There is a very poor bus ECR stop at Arlington Drive in South San Francisco that Samtrans claims is ADA compliant.

It is on a corner. This stop is very dangerous.

The McClellan ECR stop should be moved south to the offset. There should be a shelter here.

School children use this stop.

El Camino Real is only 4 lanes between the Colma & SSF city limits boundary all the way to Hickey.

Caltrans made PGE, ATT, other cable providers cut back their overgrowth.

This section of El Camino Real cannot be transited by pedestrians, bikers, wheel chairs.

It is too dangerous.

There are 9 PGE poles between the 2 cross roads without road lights.

Caltrans Maintenance Supervisor Paul Wilson has tried to remedy the problem.

We would appreciate it if Samtrans bus stops & this section of road were improved.

I sometimes walked home from Seton MC. I had to walk along El Camino & into the tract.

I would then walk down the dirt slope above Chevy's. I could not do this in wet weather.

SSF PD has visited this area many times. They know it is dangerous.

California needs a current survey to establish their road bed ownership. The road needs to be widened, at least for walkers & bikers.

There are many other ECR route problems from Daly City BART all the way through your district.

We could use some help.

Thank you,

Mike