

SAMTRANS
CORRESPONDENCE
as of 1-19-2024



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024

JOSH POWELL, CHAIR
MARINA FRASER, VICE CHAIR
DAVID J. CANEPA
MARIE CHUANG
BROOKS ESSER
JEFF GEE
RICO E. MEDINA
RAY MUELLER
PETER RATTO

APRIL CHAN
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

January 11, 2024

The Honorable Kevin Mullin
U.S. House of Representatives
1404 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Mullin:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), I write today in support of the Army Corps of Engineers studying flood protection and ecosystem restoration measures along the San Francisco Bay shoreline, particularly around SamTrans' North Base Maintenance Facility (North Base) located adjacent to the San Francisco International Airport (SFO), as well as around Colma Creek, and San Bruno Creek in South San Francisco, California.

SamTrans' North Base facility is located on an island jutting into the San Francisco Bay in South San Francisco. North Base is SamTrans' primary vehicle operations, maintenance, and storage facility for SamTrans' fixed-route buses (172 of 319 total) and paratransit vehicles. It also operates as the bus dispatch center. SamTrans is investing \$103 million in Federal dollars to replace its entire diesel bus fleet at North Base with zero emission hydrogen fuel cell electric buses (FCEBs) and an additional \$36 million for hydrogen storage, fueling and maintenance infrastructure that will be supported by future federal grants.

SamTrans provides public transit and alternative transportation services to the 20 cities in San Mateo County and portions of San Francisco to the north and Santa Clara County to the south. This region—which is home to major Silicon Valley tech firms, life sciences companies, SFO Airport and more—helps drive the national economy. SamTrans plays a key role in helping people get to work and access essential services. Importantly, nearly 75% of SamTrans passengers do not have access to a car and are public transit dependent. Approximately 64% of SamTrans passengers are in the "extremely low" income category, which is two times the federal poverty limit. Sea level rise and flooding at North Base would impede SamTrans' ability to provide this critical service.

North Base and the surrounding area are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts,

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

Page 2 of 2

including coastal flooding, inundation, and erosion. SamTrans believes it is important to evaluate potential long-term flood mitigation solutions and is already collaborating with local and regional stakeholders to that end.

SamTrans supports the Army Corps of Engineers focusing on this vulnerable area in a feasibility study to help protect residents and these important properties from climate change impacts. Please contact Government and Community Affairs Director Jessica Epstein at 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

From: [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board@samtrans.com)
To: [Jean Brook](#)
Subject: FW: Portola Valley School District morning route from Woodside/Skyline area
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 11:30:38 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-3logos_eSi.png](#)

Hi – please add this email chain into I.S. case.

Thanks.

From: Lisa Chan <ChanL@samtrans.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 11:29 AM
To: Board (@samtrans.com) <Board@samtrans.com>; Roberta Zarea <rzarea@pvsd.net>
Cc: Karen Lucian <klucian@pvsd.net>; Connie Ngo <cngo@pvsd.net>; Amod Setlur <asetlur@pvsd.net>; Kimberley Morris Rosen <k.morris.rosen@pvsd.net>; Ned Fluet <nedfluet@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Portola Valley School District morning route from Woodside/Skyline area

Thank you, Ms. Seamans, for introducing me.

Dear Superintendent Zarea,

We would like to set up a meeting to discuss this concern. Below are dates/times we are available:

Monday, 1/22/24 1-1:30pm
Tuesday, 1/30/24 1:30-2pm

Please let me know if you can make one of these options and I will email a calendar invite to you and your team.

Thank you.

Lisa Chan, Government and Community Affairs Specialist

1250 San Carlos Ave, San Carlos, CA 94070

Phone: 650.551-6131

Websites: [Caltrain](#) | [SamTrans](#) | [TA](#)



Please note that my hours are M-F 7am-3:30pm.

From: Board (@samtrans.com) <Board@samtrans.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 10:25 AM
To: Roberta Zarea <rzarea@pvsd.net>; Board (@samtrans.com) <Board@samtrans.com>
Cc: Karen Lucian <klucian@pvsd.net>; Connie Ngo <cngo@pvsd.net>; Amod Setlur <asetlur@pvsd.net>; Kimberley Morris Rosen <k.morris.rosen@pvsd.net>; Ned Fluet <nedfluet@gmail.com>; Lisa Chan <ChanL@samtrans.com>
Subject: RE: Portola Valley School District morning route from Woodside/Skyline area

Dear all – this email is to confirm receipt and introduce Lisa Chan, Government and Community Affairs Specialist, as your school liaison and copied herein. Ms. Chan will be following up with you directly.

Best,

Dora Seamans
Executive Officer/District Secretary

From: Roberta Zarea <rzarea@pvsd.net>
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2024 2:37 PM
To: Board (@samtrans.com) <board@samtrans.com>
Cc: Karen Lucian <klucian@pvsd.net>; Connie Ngo <cngo@pvsd.net>; Amod Setlur <asetlur@pvsd.net>; Kimberley Morris Rosen <k.morris.rosen@pvsd.net>; Ned Fluet <nedfluet@gmail.com>
Subject: Portola Valley School District morning route from Woodside/Skyline area

You don't often get email from rzarea@pvsd.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

Hello SamTrans Board of Directors,
I am the Superintendent of Portola Valley School District.

I am writing to request a meeting between a representative of the SamTrans Board and/or staff and our district administrators and trustees to discuss the reinstatement of a terminated bus route that serves families living far from our schools (Woodside/Skyline area). We recognize that the morning route 85 was eliminated because of cost-saving measures as a result of ridership data.

As you may be aware, the termination of this bus route has had a significant impact on our students and their families. Many of our students live in areas that are quite a distance from our schools, and for them, reliable transportation is essential to ensure that they can attend school regularly and receive the education they deserve.

The termination of this route has created hardships for these families, as they now have to find alternative means of transportation, which can be both costly and time-consuming. This situation has also led to increased absenteeism among

affected students, as some find it challenging to make it to school on time without a dependable bus service. The school district is fiscally unable to operate a transportation program due to our small size and other factors.

We believe that reinstating this morning route is not only in the best interest of our students and their families but also aligns with our shared commitment to providing equal educational opportunities to all. We would like to discuss the feasibility of reinstating this route and explore potential solutions that would address the transportation needs of our students living in these areas.

To that end, we kindly request a meeting with the Public Bus Transportation Board at your earliest convenience. This meeting would engage in a productive dialogue about the possibilities for reinstatement.

Please let us know your availability for a meeting in the next few weeks. We are eager to work together to find a solution that benefits our students and ensures that they can access their education without transportation barriers.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your positive response.

Thank you,

Roberta

Roberta Zarea
Superintendent
Portola Valley School District

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Instagram: @PortolaValleySD
Facebook: @PortolaValleySD
Website: <https://www.pvsd.net/>

(650) 851-1777

Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and protected information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.