

SAMTRANS
CORRESPONDENCE
as of 8-30-2024



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August 15, 2024

Patrick Gilster
San Mateo County Transportation Authority
1250 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070

RE: 2024 Joint Cycle 7 Ped/Bike and Cycle 2 ACR/TDM Calls for Projects

Dear Mr. Gilster,

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), I write in support of the Redwood City's grant application for the *El Camino Real/James Avenue Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Operation Improvement Project*. The project was identified in Redwood City's adopted Walk Bike Thrive Plan as a priority pedestrian safety project that improves safety for students, transit riders, and area residents who access several major destinations around the project site including Sequoia High School, Redwood City Transit Center, and shopping centers at two sides of the intersection.

The project scope includes upgrading the intersection geometry, crosswalks and striping improvements, and converting the traffic signal to eight-phase operation. The eight-phase operation will include protected left turns, which will eliminate the conflicts between left-turning vehicles, including SamTrans buses, and pedestrians crossing El Camino Real. Adding protected left turns from James Avenue to El Camino Real will benefit SamTrans operations because the buses will no longer need to wait for traffic to clear to before turning, which will improve speed, reliability, and safety.

For these reasons, SamTrans strongly supports this *Measure A/W Pedestrian and Bicycle Program* grant application and we urge you to consider it for funding. If you have any questions, please reach out to Government and Community Affairs Director Jessica Epstein at epsteinj@samtrans.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Mello", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Josh Mello
Executive Officer, Planning & Development

cc: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors

SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT
1250 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070 (650) 508-6200

August 20, 2024

David E. Weekly
926 Madison Ave
Redwood City, CA 94061
david@weekly.org
415-336-2617

SamTrans Board of Directors
1250 San Carlos Ave
San Carlos, CA 94070

RE: Safety Concerns Regarding Slow-Moving Buses in HOV Lanes

Dear Honorable Board Members,

I am writing to express my concern regarding a recurring safety issue on Bay Area highways: buses driving at significantly slower speeds in HOV lanes, often impeding the flow of traffic and creating hazardous situations.

As a frequent driver on Highway 101 and other Bay Area freeways, I have personally witnessed numerous instances of this problem. Just this morning at 7am I was behind a Genentech private bus going 55 northbound on 101 by SFO in the leftmost Express lane, with most traffic passing to the right of the bus at 65-70mph while witnessing an average travel speed in the Express lane of 75mph. This afternoon at 230pm I was southbound on 101 and saw an empty SamTrans bus being repositioned for service, similarly driving empty and slowly in the leftmost Express lane, probably 10mph slower than traffic passing to the right.

While I understand and support the need for buses to utilize HOV lanes to improve public transit efficiency, their slow speeds in these lanes can lead to non-laminar flow, frustration among other drivers, and dangerous overtaking maneuvers.

California Vehicle Code Section 21654 explicitly states that drivers must keep to the right lane except when passing. However, it appears many bus drivers are not adhering to this law, potentially due to a lack of clear guidance or enforcement regarding bus operations and speeds in HOV lanes.

The safety implications of this practice are significant. Overtaking on the right is responsible for a disproportionate number of highway accidents and injuries and quickly can create compounding congestion due to uneven traffic flow induced by a slow-moving left-lane actor.

I urge you to consider issuing clear guidance to SamTrans drivers operating on highways like 101 that have HOV / Express Lanes.

08/26/24 AM 1:48 PM EG

I'd love to see emphasized:

- **Safety is Paramount:** Even in HOV lanes, buses should yield to faster-moving traffic to maintain safe and efficient traffic flow.
- **Adhere to Traffic Laws:** Bus drivers should follow CVC 21654 and keep right except to pass, just like other vehicles.
- **Consider Alternative Strategies:** Transit agencies should explore options to improve bus speeds and minimize their impact on traffic flow in HOV lanes.

By addressing this issue proactively, we can improve the safety and efficiency of our highways while still supporting the vital role of public transportation.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. And thank you for your public service in assisting with public transit! I look forward to your response and any actions taken to address this concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David E. Weekly", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David E. Weekly
Trustee, Area II, Redwood City School District

David & Rebecca Weekly
926 Madison Ave
Redwood City, CA 94061



SAN FRANCISCO CA 940
21 AUG 2024 PM 3 L

SanTrans Board of Directors
1250 San Carlos Ave
San Carlos, CA 94070

94070-240055



Jean Brook

From: AC Transit eNews <actransit@service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 3:02 PM
To: Board (@samtrans.com)
Subject: Sunday Schedules on Labor Day, September 2

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Sunday Schedules on Labor Day, September 2

On Monday, September 2, all AC Transit local and transbay lines will operate on [Sunday schedules](#).



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9月2日周一，所有的AC Transit本地和跨湾线路将按照[周日的时刻表](#)运行。 [s.](#)



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This email was sent to board@samtrans.com using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit), 1600 Franklin St., Oakland, CA 94612.

