



SamTrans Board of Directors
Meeting of February 5, 2025

Correspondence as of January 24, 2025

Subject

1. Traffic Evaporation – reducing road capacity does not cause congestion
2. Letter of Support for the El Camino Real Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Project
3. Mass Transit – January 2025 Transit Bid Tracker
4. Internship Opportunities – *referral to staff*

From: [Public Comment](#)
To: [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: Traffic Evaporation: reducing road capacity does not cause congestion
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 11:04:46 AM

From: Giuliano <giuliano@carlini.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 18, 2025 6:32 PM
Subject: Traffic Evaporation: reducing road capacity does not cause congestion

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Hi all,

I just bumped into the term "Traffic Evaporation". The opposite of induced demand. Folks adjust.

Which makes sense. A few things I recall from news stories over the years:

In LA in 1984, during the LA Olympics, when the city experienced dramatically more visitors. And restricted roadway capacity to locals. And congestion went down. I lived there at the time. It was fantastic. Then everything returned to "normal", and traffic was hell. And folks talked about "why don't we go back to what we did during the Olympics ..." but no body with power did anything to make that happen.

After the Northridge quake, part of the 10 collapsed. No significant increase in traffic occurred. Again, I was there at the time. Heading into downtown should have been impossible. But folks adapted, and congestion was really no worse than before.

After the '89 earthquake the Embarcadero freeway collapsed. San Francisco dealt with it just fine. Ditto needing to tear down part of the Central freeway. And now after learning that this could be done, folks there push to remove the rest of it.

Recently the 10 in LA was damaged and closed due to a fire. Congestion did not increase.

In June 2023 the I-95 collapsed in Philadelphia. Congestion was "[close to normal](#)".

Google Scholar links for "traffic evaporation":

- https://nacto.org/docs/usdg/disappearing_traffic_cairns.pdf
This paper reports on two phases of research, resulting in the examination of over 70 case studies of roadspace reallocation from eleven countries, and the collation of opinions from over 200 transport professionals worldwide. The findings suggest that predictions of traffic problems are often unnecessarily alarmist, and that, given appropriate local circumstances, significant reductions in overall traffic levels can occur,
- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2213624X22002085>
Traffic evaporation – i.e. the opposite of induced traffic – is acknowledged as a well-established phenomenon
- <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/376521935>
Results suggest that irrespective of buffer size, the impact of temporal 10 road pedestrianization on cross-sectional traffic flow of surrounding roads is negligible.
- <https://www.research-collection.ethz.ch/bitstream/handle/20.500.11850/693886/1/v965.pdf> page 13
Concept of traffic evaporation is opposite of induced demand
- <https://www.onestreet.org/resources-for-increasing-bicycling/115-traffic-evaporation>
Traffic evaporation is a phenomenon that has resulted from strategic removal of road space previously dedicated to motor vehicles. This is not the expected result.
- https://www.onestreet.org/images/stories/Disappearing_traffic.pdf
allocating roadspace from general traffic, to improve conditions for pedestrians or cyclists or buses or on-street light rail or other high-occupancy vehicles, is often predicted to cause major traffic problems on neighbouring streets. ... The findings suggest that ... significant reductions in overall traffic levels can occur,
- https://www.onestreet.org/images/stories/Price_of_Anarchy_in_Transp_Networks.pdf
Uncoordinated individuals in human society pursuing their personally optimal strategies do not always achieve the social optimum. Instead, strategies form Nash equilibria which are often socially suboptimal... simply blocking certain streets can partially improve the traffic conditions..
- <https://thecityfix.com/blog/traffic-evaporation-what-really-happens-when-road-space->

[is-reallocated-from-cars/](#)

evidence shows that road building, instead of reducing congestion, actually increases traffic.

...

When lanes were reassigned from car traffic to higher-capacity modes – sidewalks, bike lanes and bus or rail lanes – traffic issues were less severe than expected, and traffic volumes were significantly reduced.

...

There was not a traffic apocalypse. Traffic was reduced not only for the roads where lanes were reassigned, but on nearby streets too in most cases.

- <https://rapidtransition.org/stories/reducing-roads-can-cause-traffic-to-evaporate/>

In April 2019 a heavily-used bridge across the River Thames in London was closed indefinitely due to structural problems. Local media were full of alarm, warning about the likely traffic congestion that would result. But, curiously, several months later, the signs are that the opposite may be happening. Pollution levels in key nearby centres have gone down, a strong indication that fewer cars are on the roads. Could this be the latest sign of one of the best kept, and counter intuitive secrets in urban planning, that less road space doesn't increase congestion but leads to a drop in vehicle numbers? In a world looking to quickly cut carbon emissions it's an insight that could prove revolutionary.

Imagine if we closed some roads to cars and traffic congestion actually reduced as a result. This sounds counter-intuitive; yet, it is exactly the effect that was revealed by research in the 1990s in a number of cities around the world. This result was described as 'traffic evaporation' in the seminal 1998 UK study of 100 locations

giuliano

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Drive a bike a bit more often and cars a bit less. You'll be healthier and happier, and so will our world.

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

January 27, 2025

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary-Designate
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Letter of Support for the El Camino Real Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Project

Dear Secretary-Designate Duffy:

I am writing on behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) and the Transportation Authority (TA) to express support for the Town of Colma's RAISE grant application, submitted in partnership with the City of South San Francisco, to help fund the El Camino Real Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Project (Project).

The requested funds will be used to design improvements along El Camino Real. These improvements aim to enhance multi-modal infrastructure, optimize traffic flow, and improve accessibility and safety for users of all ages and abilities while also supporting future housing developments.

To achieve its objectives, the Project will implement Complete Street improvements, including continuous sidewalks, protected bike lanes, ADA-compliant curb ramps, high-visibility crosswalks, enhanced street lighting, landscaping, stormwater treatment measures, bus stop improvements, and new traffic signals. These improvements will connect to regional transit options, including bus service on El Camino Real and access to the Colma and South San Francisco BART stations.

SamTrans and the TA support this project due to its commitment to enhancing safety, mobility, and connectivity for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users. The proposed improvements will help create a safer, more efficient transportation network that benefits all users. Additionally, the project aligns with our agency's long-term goals of making a lasting, positive impact on the communities we serve.

Please contact Government Affairs Director, 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 "D. Santoro".

David Santoro
Deputy General Manager/CEO

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

From: [Mass Transit Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#)
To: [Mass Transit Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#)
Subject: January 2025 Transit Bid Tracker
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 2:51:56 PM

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Transit Bid Tracker | [View online](#)



COUNTYWIDE TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

From Palm Tran

Palm Beach County (PBC) is seeking proposals from qualified consultants, whose firm has worked in a similar metropolitan area, with a minimum population of 1.5 million and geographical land area comparable to PBC's 1,977 square miles,...



RFP #2025-01 - Operations of GVRTA's Commuter Bus Service

From The Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority (GVRTA)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority (GVRTA) is issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP #2025-01). This RFP and related documents will be available at 8:30 AM on January 17, 2025. Firms desirous of securing a...



Sun Shuttle Fixed-Route and Sun Shuttle Dial-a-Ride Public Transportation

From Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County (RTA)

The Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County (RTA) seeks proposals from qualified entities, either singly or through a joint venture with others, to provide fixed route (Sun Shuttle) and paratransit (Sun Shuttle Dial-a-Ride) services...



Development of a Safety and Security Plan RFP #25-01-001

From Luzerne County Transportation Authority

The Luzerne County Transportation Authority (LCTA) is seeking qualified and experienced firms to develop a comprehensive Safety and Security Plan, resulting in the creation of a Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness Manual specific...

RFI: Vehicle Telematics and Data Analytics System (SSE# 494736)

From MTA – New York City Transit



MTA NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT RFI: Vehicle Telematics and Data Analytics System (SSE# 494736) Due Date: 2/5/25 Info for the above solicitation(s) can be found on the Request for Information section on the NYCT website <https://www.mta.info>



RFP 124FR015 – Downtown Rail Replacement Project

From Regional Transportation District (RTD)

TD RFP Number 124FR015 – Downtown Rail Replacement Project
21% DBE Goal – Progressive Design Build Project Release Date:
December 2, 2024 Pre-Bid Meeting (Non-Mandatory): January 6,
2025, 9:00am <https://teams.microsoft.com/j/meetup...>

Six 2014 MCI Coach Buses Available for Title Transfer

From Beaver County Transit Authority (BCTA)

Beaver County Transit Authority (BCTA) has six (6) 2014 D4500 MCI Coach buses available for title transfer to interested public agencies. These vehicles are in fair plus condition, well-maintained, and have mileage ranges from 410,000 to 440,000 miles.

RFP #2025-03 to Provide and Install a CAD and AVL System

From Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA)

The WRTA located in Worcester, MA is seeking proposals from qualified vendors to provide and install a CAD & AVL system. Proposals are due by 2:00 pm on February 7, 2025. To obtain a copy of the RFP please visit therta.com.

Americans With Disability Act (ADA) Certification Services for Ventura County

From Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC)

The Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) is seeking proposals from qualified firms to provide consultant services to provide ADA assessment and certification services for Ventura County. A detailed Request for Proposals, Scope of...

25-B04 CCTV Transit center-Pine Hills Terminal

From Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (Lynx)

25-B04 CCTV Transit center-Pine Hills Terminal

RFP: Automatic Passenger Counter and Transportation Technology

From Fresno Area Express (FAX)

The City of Fresno Department of Transportation is seeking information on the various manufacturers and types of Automatic Passenger Counter (APC) systems and transit technology for transit vehicles. The City of Fresno's Department of...

To post a RFP, please contact Amy Stauffer

This email is being sent to board@samtrans.com.

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Mass Transit
Endeavor Business Media
30 Burton Hills Blvd., Suite 185
Nashville, TN 37215

From: [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board@samtrans.com)
To: [Ben Callicott](#); [Recruitment](#)
Cc: [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board@samtrans.com)
Subject: RE: Internship Opportunities?
Date: Friday, January 24, 2025 2:08:00 PM

Hello Ben,

I have referred you to our recruiting department – recruitment@samtrans.com, copied above.

Thank you,

Jean Brook (she/her)

Assistant District Secretary
Executive Administration

San Mateo County Transit District
1250 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070
Office: 650-508-6223
Cell: 650-703-1934
www.smctd.com

From: Ben Callicott <ben.callicott@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2025 10:43 AM
To: Board (@samtrans.com) <Board@samtrans.com>
Subject: Internship Opportunities?

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

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Hello!

I was wondering if you guys were looking for any interns - either paid or unpaid - to help out with GIS work or any transit or policy related research or analysis. If so, I would love to help out and can send over my resume! I have extensive experience in the planning and GIS fields and love what you guys are doing to increase transportation equity and reduce emissions, especially in San Mateo as I have lived my whole life here and seen the impact that your services have had on my friends and family.

Thank you,
Ben Callicott