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as of 2-26-2021

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Transportation
Authority**

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

February 24, 2021

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) and the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA), I would like to personally congratulate you on your new role as the Secretary of Transportation. You bring an enormous amount of knowledge and hands-on experience to the Department of Transportation and I am confident you will be a strong leader.

The public transit industry faced tremendous challenges in 2020 but has continued to serve millions of essential workers and their communities despite devastating financial hardships. Our operators have been on the front lines throughout the pandemic, connecting essential workers to their jobs in hospitals, grocery stores, and other vital services while ensuring that Americans are not cut off from medical care, groceries, or pharmacies and healthcare appointments.

We look forward to working closely with you as Congress advances President Biden's American Rescue Plan to address the ongoing impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

We also know that rebuilding America's infrastructure will be a major priority of President Biden's administration and that you are an excellent choice to lead the Department at this moment in history. Public transportation has a critical role to play in our economic recovery, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and advancing equity.

Our industry stands ready to address these issues head on, while revitalizing our communities. We look forward to working with you and the Biden Administration in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Hartnett".

Jim Hartnett
General Manager/Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

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February 24, 2021

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT for Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) and the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA), I write to you today 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 purposes, 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 such as SamTrans upon the approval of two-thirds of the voters of the city, county, or special district. 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. Without passage of this measure, San Mateo County was on the brink of losing out on an estimated \$2 billion in transit and transportation funding.

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 revenue. These funds will go to much-needed local infrastructure and affordable housing projects that increase access to housing, jobs & schools, reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality.

For these reasons, we respectfully **SUPPORT** ACA 1.

Please contact our Government and Community Affairs staff at GovernmentandCommunityAffairs@samtrans.com with any questions or issues.

Sincerely,

Jim Hartnett
General Manager/Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

Cc: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors
Peninsula Corridor Joint Power Board of Directors
San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors
San Mateo County Transit District State Legislative Delegation
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board State Legislative Delegation
San Mateo County Transportation Authority State Legislative Delegation

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February 24, 2021

The Honorable Ben Allen
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **SUPPORT** for SB 44 (Allen)

Dear Chair Allen and Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) and the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain), I write to you in **support of SB 44 (Allen)**. SB 44 will accelerate common-sense and sustainable transportation projects. Specifically, SB 44 makes it easier to build pedestrian safety projects, bicycle lanes and facilities, new bus, bus rapid transit and light rail projects.

In 2011, the Legislature passed AB 900 (Buchanan & Gordon) and SB 292 (Padilla), establishing expedited CEQA judicial review procedures for a limited number of large-scale "leadership" projects, including sports arenas/stadiums and convention centers, that meet specified environmental standards and that create new construction jobs and investment in the state.

These bills were enacted because the Legislature acknowledged that CEQA litigation – and the timelines associated with it – often creates an impediment to the delivery of important projects.

SB 44 builds on these statutes to establish temporary and conditional expedited administrative and judicial review procedures under CEQA for a narrow category of transit projects that reduce VMT, transportation-related emissions, are consistent with a region's applicable sustainable communities strategy or alternative planning strategy, and that are consistent with the applicable regional transportation plan.

If successfully enacted, this bill could help our agencies build projects that will bring significant benefits to the Bay Area. For these reasons, we encourage the Committee to pass SB 44.

The Honorable Ben Allen

February 24, 2021

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Please contact our Government and Community Affairs staff at GovernmentandCommunityAffairs@samtrans.com if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Jim Hartnett

General Manager/Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

cc: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors
Peninsula Corridor Joint Power Board of Directors
San Mateo County Transit District State Legislative Delegation
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board State Legislative Delegation