

**SAMTRANS**  
**CORRESPONDENCE**  
**as of 6-25-2021**



June 22, 2021

The Honorable Lena Gonzalez  
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2209  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 917 (Bloom) Safe & Reliable Access to Transit Services – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Gonzalez:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) I write to voice our **SUPPORT** for Assembly Bill 917 (Bloom). This bill would expand current state law to authorize transit agencies to use camera technology to discourage illegal parking in transit-only lanes and at transit stops where parking is already prohibited under existing law.

Under AB 917, transit agencies would be authorized to install forward-facing cameras on their transit vehicles to collect images of parking violations that occur in transit-only lanes and at transit stops. The parking citations do not negatively impact a driver's record, carry the same fine as a parking ticket, and can be appealed. The bill contains privacy protections and sets noticing requirements for a newly enacted program.

California has witnessed a growing number of cars on the state's roads in recent years, and with it an increase in drivers parking in designated transit-only lanes and at transit stops. Illegal parking in these zones compromises transit operators' ability to provide safe, reliable, and accessible public transit service. Until the vehicle relocates, transit-only lanes and transit stops are effectively rendered out of service. This reduces transit system reliability by slowing down transit vehicle speeds and negatively impacts transit riders.

In addition to the service impacts, a partially blocked transit stop creates significant safety concerns. When a transit operator is not able to reach the curb, riders are forced to negotiate the street and the gap that is created between the transit vehicle and the curb. This is a potentially dangerous maneuver for riders to make, and an impossible one for those with a disability or mobility impairments, including seniors.

SamTrans has long-supported efforts allowing transit agencies to use innovative technologies to improve service and passenger safety and we are pleased to **SUPPORT** AB 917 (Bloom). Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or need

The Honorable Lena Gonzalez

June 22, 2021

Page 2 of 2

additional information, please contact Jessica Epstein from the SamTrans Government and Community Affairs staff at [epsteinj@samtrans.com](mailto:epsteinj@samtrans.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carter Mau".

Carter Mau  
Acting General Manager/CEO

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

**From:** [Rick Nahass](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#); [info@bayareametro.gov](#)  
**Cc:** [Debbie Ruddock](#); [Deborah Penrose](#); [GPapan@ci.millbrae.ca.us](#); [HRarback@hmbcity.com](#); [John Ford](#); [Robert Brownstone](#); [city.clerk@cityofsanrafael.org](#); [citycouncil@ci.pacifica.ca.us](#); [cpeeples@actransit.org](#); [districtsecretary@goldengate.org](#); [eortiz@actransit.org](#); [jbeckles@actransit.org](#); [jjimenez@hmbcity.com](#); [jwalsh@actransit.org](#); [jyoung@actransit.org](#); [mawilliams@actransit.org](#); [novatocouncil@novato.org](#)  
**Subject:** Bay Area Transportation Network Manager Decision - BRTF Jun 8  
**Date:** Friday, June 25, 2021 2:24:26 PM

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

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

**TO:** Blue Ribbon Task Force and SamTrans Board  
**CC:** Transit Operators and Elected Officials

In the upcoming [Jun 8, 1PM Blue Ribbon Task force meeting](#), agenda item 4a Network Management Evaluation, the direction of a central owner for coordinating one Bay Area Transit system may be decided.

It is imperative that the Blue Ribbon Task Force focus the effort of evaluation and planning on a completely new organization/structure, Network Manager, that holistically supports all public transit operations. This would mitigate the current inequitable MTC support for rail over bus operations and downtown corporate commuting over small business/community public transit.

Systematic in the perhaps decades of unconscious bias against bus operations:

(1) Support for Bus Transit Corridors missing or de-prioritized on initiatives:

- Support for Dedicated right of ways for Rail %100, for Bus %0
- Rail - BART Central Transbay Corridor - **\$1Billion Funding in 2020**
- Rail - Dumbarton Caltrain Southern Transbay corridor - **\$1Billion Plan**
- Bus - GG Transit '40' San Rafael - Del Norte BART Northern Transbay Corridor Exists, \$0 new funding
- Bus - AC Transit 'M' Hayward to Half Moon Bay \$0 Planning - work commute, only rides half way
- Bus - Half Moon Bay to Novato Western Corridor - \$0 Planning, does not exist (needs collaboration from 4 Bus operator agencies)

(2) Clipper - SF Bay Bus operator fare box has more in common with bus transit operations in Tokyo, New York and London than with SF Bay Rail fare collection. Clipper was built as a closed system for rail gates and the resulting after thought accomodation for buses restricts bus operators from consideration of open payment fare collection using off-the-shelf processes and equipment like the one successfully implemented by [Monterey Salinas Transit](#).

An independent Network Manager could facilitate bus operator collaboration and equitable policy attitude for Transit Corridors and fare box open payment with merger to eventual \$500M upgrade cost to accommodate open payment for rail/Clipper-2.

Thank You for your consideration,

Rick Nahass  
392 Brighton Rd, Pacifica, CA 94044

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**From:** reimagine@samtrans.com <reimagine@samtrans.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 24, 2021 11:45 AM

**To:** Roberta Zarea <rzarea@pvsd.net>

**Cc:** Brooke Day <bday@pvsd.net>; Nancy Magee <nmagee@smcoe.org>; klucian@pvsd.net; Board (@samtrans.com) <Board@samtrans.com>

**Subject:** Letter of Concern from the Portola Valley School District

Dear Superintendent Zarea,

Thank you for your letter to SamTrans regarding the *Reimagine SamTrans* project and for taking the time to meet with SamTrans staff in May 2021.

Your comments regarding school-related bus service in Portola Valley have been noted and are being considered thoughtfully by our project staff as we move into the next phase of the project.

We appreciate the compromises and ideas your team has brought to the table as we balance competing demands with constrained resources. We look forward to re-engaging with you over the next few months as we develop one final proposed bus network.

Thank you for participating in our project. Please do not hesitate to contact us at [reimagine@samtrans.com](mailto:reimagine@samtrans.com) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Best,

The *Reimagine SamTrans* Project Team

**From:** [MICHAEL HARRIS](#)  
**To:** [Sherman III, Earl R@DOT](#)  
**Cc:** [Michael Richardson](#); [O'Connor, Matthew](#); [Jon Kallas](#); [Jeff Azzopardi](#); [Sean Curmi](#); [Ken Chetcuti](#); [Fahmida Murphy](#); [kathleen.wentworth@mail.house.gov](#); [David Canepa](#); [Pine, Dave \[dpine@smcgov.org\]](#); [Dubost, Tina](#); [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#); [Rios, Rona](#); [De La Torre, Andria](#); [Medina, Rico \[rmedina@sanbruno.ca.gov\]](#); [john.goodwin@colma.ca.gov](#); [Helen Fisicaro](#); [Josh Connolly](#); [Katie Ferrick](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Referred from David Canepa office El Camino Real Safety problems (includes SamTrans roadway use)  
**Date:** Thursday, June 24, 2021 8:33:24 PM

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

Crosswalk striping will not help. That right turn should be turn only when pedestrians are not present.,  
I had Kevin Mullin's office contact you years ago. It was not feasible I was told.

We still have the distracted driving problem with cell phones at that right turn.  
David Canepa tried to solve this in crosswalks when he was first on Board of Supervisors.  
I had sent David an article on Honolulu. Crosswalk between Starbucks & Trader Joes here is a good example.  
People walk across on the phone, paying no attention to their surroundings.  
SMC BOS found they had no jurisdiction over this. At least we tried.

We do not know how much Caltrans owns along El Camino Real Colma - San Bruno.  
City just got 3 grants to beautify El Camino from McClellan to Kaiser Hospital.  
The rest to Arroyo Drive is not finished for pedestrians.  
A map would help.

I have fought these same battles since 2003.  
It took 13 years to get the Alta Loma Stairs cleared from 2003.

Please keep SSF PD & David's office in the loop.  
There is no point going to City Council on any of this.  
This will be improved at the city staff level or not at all.

I do not have ATT long distance.  
I only use my Reno C/F for long distance, 250 minutes / month max.

I would suggest to the Legislature that photos be taken of drivers, sent to CHP.  
CHP then sends on to insurance companies. Legislature is not doing their part.

I am fighting loud vehicles on my street too. SSF PD has helped.

You need a people's task force of volunteers to take these problems on in every community.

Bus stop at Alta Loma stairs should have been moved off El Camino onto your 35' property strip.  
It is now too late.

We had a Community Preservation Task Force until city abolished it.  
We dealt with some of these problems.

It has SSF FD + SSF PD + SSF Sewer Plant + sometimes SMC officials.

Colma Creek runs under your road in Colma, just before SSF.  
It needs to be surveyed for blockages. It is a choke point.

I would appreciate maps that we can use.  
There are only a handful of residents fighting for quality of life improvements.

Go ahead & call. I have other legal problems right now with contractors.

SSF PD main number 650 877 8900.

Kathleen Wentworth works for Jackie Speier.  
Rico Medina is the elected Mayor of San Bruno. He is now on the Samtrans Board.  
SB elects their Mayor. All other Peninsula cities play musical chairs.  
Rico has years of experience on CC before running for Mayor (every 2 years).  
Rico replaced Karyl Matsumoto when Karyl retired last year.  
I talk & email Karyl now & then. She retired from Samtrans too.

There is a lot of experience here. It just does not come together here very well.

Mike

On Thursday, June 24, 2021, 07:22:28 PM PDT, Sherman III, Earl R@DOT  
<earl.sherman.iii@dot.ca.gov> wrote:

Hello Mr. Harris,

I will have a supervisor check on the trees you have mentioned and the crosswalk striping. I will also check to see if there are any programmed projects on El Camino that might upgrade any of the issues you have outlined. Would it be acceptable if one of our supervisors reaches out to you by phone if necessary?

Thank you



Earl R Sherman III

Southwest Region Manager

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**From:** MICHAEL HARRIS <usmmmh@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 24, 2021 1:09 PM

**To:** Sherman III, Earl R@DOT <earl.sherman.III@dot.ca.gov>

**Cc:** David Canepa <dcanepa@smcgov.org>; Michael Richardson <mrichardson@smcgov.org>; Rico Medina <rmedina@sanbruno.ca.gov>; kathleen.wentworth@mail.house.gov; board@samtrans.com; Tina Dubost <dubostc@samtrans.com>; Rios Rona <riosr@samtrans.com>; Andria De La Torre <delatorrea@samtrans.com>; O'Connor, Matthew <matthew.o'connor@ssf.net>; Ken Chetcuti <ken.chetcuti@ssf.net>; Sean Curmi <sean.curmi@ssf.net>; Jeff Azzopardi <jeff.azzopardi@ssf.net>; Steven Massoni <steven.massoni@ssf.net>; Danny Gil <danny.gil@ssf.net>; Fahmida Murphy <fahmida.murphy@ssf.net>; Jon Kallas <jon.kallas@ssf.net>; Josh Connolly <josh.connolly@mail.house.gov>; john.goodwin@colma.ca.gov; Helen Fisicaro <helen.fisicaro@colma.ca.gov>

**Subject:** Referred from David Canepa office El Camino Real Safety problems (includes SamTrans roadway use)

**EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.**

Dear Earl,

Michael Richardson just emailed me your contact info.

You can call me at: 650 589 0175

El Camino Real from Hickey Blvd to Colma is poorly maintained.

There is a Monterey Cypress Tree overgrowing the roadway.

This road should have been widened before 1970.

My parents moved here June 1959.

If there infrastructure funds coming available I would like this considered.

If the 23rd Marines are ever activated toward SF, this road will be needed.

A severe earthquake could topple several I-280 overpasses.

There are many in the Northern Peninsula.

I am now also trying to get a dead tree removed just south of Hickey.

It is unclear who owns the land adjacent to the roadway.

It is just above the sidewalk.

As one leaves Grocery Outlet Parking Lot going south, the tree is right at the 35 MPH sign.

It is on a slope. The dirt looks loose.

It will take a bucket lift to cut the branches.

A tree just fell on JS 2 days ago between Clay & King Drive.

We could use some help.

This is an ADA problem too.

I cannot walk from Colma along El Camino Real into South San Francisco.

Bus drivers have denied me free rides just 1 - 2 stops.

I have had to walk along El Camino into the tract at Arlington, then up hills to above Chevys.

I then walk down the dirt slope.

I am a disabled veteran with both breathing & orthopedic injuries.

The crosswalk at Costco is very dangerous.

Pedestrians have problems dodging drivers with cellphones leading Costco heading north.

SSF PD has assigned Sergeant Matthew O'Connor to this.

The SSF PD officers on this cc were recently promoted.

I am trying to move Public Safety & Quality of Life forward.

Jeff Azzopardi is the Chief. Jeff is from here & grew up here.

Samtrans has my permission to forward my emails to you.

I will find the one from Samtrans with their letter attached & forward to you.

Michael Harris (age 75)

218 Alta Mesa Drive

SSF, CA 94080-3002

(650) 589 0175

**From:** [MICHAEL HARRIS](#)  
**To:** [earl.sherman.III@dot.ca.gov](mailto:earl.sherman.III@dot.ca.gov)  
**Cc:** [David Canepa](#); [Michael Richardson](#); [Medina, Rico \[rmedina@sanbruno.ca.gov\]](mailto:Medina.Rico@sanbruno.ca.gov); [kathleen.wentworth@mail.house.gov](mailto:kathleen.wentworth@mail.house.gov); [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board@samtrans.com); [Dubost, Tina](#); [Rios, Rona](#); [De La Torre, Andria](#); [O'Connor, Matthew](#); [Ken Chetcuti](#); [Sean Curmi](#); [Jeff Azzopardi](#); [Steven Massoni](#); [Danny Gil](#); [Fahmida Murphy](#); [Jon Kallas](#); [Josh Connolly](#); [john.goodwin@colma.ca.gov](mailto:john.goodwin@colma.ca.gov); [Helen Fiscaro](#)  
**Subject:** Referred from David Canepa office El Camino Real Safety problems (includes SamTrans roadway use)  
**Date:** Thursday, June 24, 2021 1:09:45 PM

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Dear Earl,

Michael Richardson just emailed me your contact info.

You can call me at: 650 589 0175

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Jeff Azzopardi is the Chief. Jeff is from here & grew up here.

Samtrans has my permission to forward my emails to you.

I will find the one from Samtrans with their letter attached & forward to you.

Michael Harris (age 75)

218 Alta Mesa Drive

SSF, CA 94080-3002

(650) 589 0175

**From:** [reimagine@samtrans.com](mailto:reimagine@samtrans.com)  
**To:** [Mike.Futrell@ssf.net](mailto:Mike.Futrell@ssf.net)  
**Cc:** [Marie.Patea@ssf.net](mailto:Marie.Patea@ssf.net); [Sharon.Ranals@ssf.net](mailto:Sharon.Ranals@ssf.net); [Council-Only@ssf.net](mailto:Council-Only@ssf.net); [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board (@samtrans.com)); [Epstein, Jessica](#)  
**Subject:** Reimagine Sam Trans - City of SSF  
**Date:** Friday, June 25, 2021 1:07:34 PM

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Dear Mike:

Thank you for your letter to SamTrans regarding the *Reimagine SamTrans* project. We thank you for your thoughtful feedback.

Staff have reviewed your letter and incorporated your comments into the summary of comments received throughout the second phase of project outreach. This feedback will be considered carefully during the next phase of this project as we create a final new SamTrans bus network.

We look forward to re-engaging with the City of South San Francisco during our final round of public outreach in Fall 2021.

Thank you for participating in our project. Please do not hesitate to contact our staff at [reimagine@samtrans.com](mailto:reimagine@samtrans.com) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Best,  
The *Reimagine SamTrans* Project Team

**From:** [reimagine@samtrans.com](mailto:reimagine@samtrans.com)  
**To:** [Rick Nahass](#)  
**Cc:** [RBrownstone@hmbcity.com](mailto:RBrownstone@hmbcity.com); [DRuddock@hmbcity.com](mailto:DRuddock@hmbcity.com); [jjimenez@hmbcity.com](mailto:jjimenez@hmbcity.com); [DPenrose@hmbcity.com](mailto:DPenrose@hmbcity.com); [HRarback@hmbcity.com](mailto:HRarback@hmbcity.com); [beckmeyers@ci.pacifica.ca.us](mailto:beckmeyers@ci.pacifica.ca.us); [bierm@ci.pacifica.ca.us](mailto:bierm@ci.pacifica.ca.us); [vaterlauss@ci.pacifica.ca.us](mailto:vaterlauss@ci.pacifica.ca.us); [bigstyckt@ci.pacifica.ca.us](mailto:bigstyckt@ci.pacifica.ca.us); [MTABoard@sfmta.com](mailto:MTABoard@sfmta.com); [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board (@samtrans.com))  
**Subject:** Reimagine SamTrans Alternatives  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 23, 2021 3:43:38 PM

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Dear Rick,

Thank you for your letter to SamTrans regarding the *Reimagine SamTrans* project. Our team has enjoyed engaging with you during one-on-one conversations and during meetings with community groups that you are part of. Your comments regarding bus service in Pacifica and along the Coastsides have been noted and are being considered thoughtfully by our project staff as we move into the next phase of the project.

As you may know, our team is using a robust combination of travel pattern data, ridership data, and public input to craft ideas for bus system changes that can meet the most needs of the many communities in San Mateo County.

We thank you for sharing the Sharp Park Specific Plan with us and assure you that we are thinking creatively about how to increase and better connect bus service in both the Linda Mar and Palmetto Business District areas of Pacifica. We are also closely monitoring the commute patterns that may emerge following the Covid-19 pandemic, especially with respect to trip-making patterns into San Francisco.

We appreciate the ideas you have brought to the table. Please continue to engage with our project team as we develop and propose one final proposed bus network this Fall.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at [reimagine@samtrans.com](mailto:reimagine@samtrans.com) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Best,

The *Reimagine SamTrans* Project Team

**From:** [reimagine@samtrans.com](mailto:reimagine@samtrans.com)  
**To:** [jdennis@portolavalley.net](mailto:jdennis@portolavalley.net)  
**Cc:** [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board (@samtrans.com)); Epstein, Jessica  
**Subject:** Reimagine SamTrans Letter  
**Date:** Thursday, June 24, 2021 4:58:40 PM

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Dear Jeremy,

Thank you for your letter to SamTrans regarding the *Reimagine SamTrans* project and for taking the time to meet with SamTrans staff in April 2021. Your comments regarding school-related bus service in Portola Valley have been noted and are being considered thoughtfully by our project staff as we move into the next phase of the project.

We appreciate the compromises and ideas your team has brought to the table as we balance competing demands with constrained resources. We welcome the opportunity to stay engaged with you over the next few months as we develop one final proposed bus network.

Please don't hesitate to contact us at [reimagine@samtrans.com](mailto:reimagine@samtrans.com) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Best,  
The *Reimagine SamTrans* Project Team



**From:** [MICHAEL HARRIS](#)  
**To:** [David Canepa](#); [Pine, Dave \[dpine@smcgov.org\]](#); [Medina, Rico \[rmedina@sanbruno.ca.gov\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Michael Richardson](#); [Tony Bayudan](#); [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#); [Rios, Rona](#); [Dubost, Tina](#); [De La Torre, Andria](#)  
**Subject:** SMDJ: Samtrans seeks unpaid debt posted 4 hours ago  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 23, 2021 9:33:35 AM

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[https://www.smdailyjournal.com/news/local/samtrans-seeks-unpaid-debt/article\\_3a34b48c-d3da-11eb-8533-a7a909bff6ce.html](https://www.smdailyjournal.com/news/local/samtrans-seeks-unpaid-debt/article_3a34b48c-d3da-11eb-8533-a7a909bff6ce.html)

Thought this would interest all of you.

Mike



CHARLES STONE, CHAIR  
PETER RATTO, VICE CHAIR  
MARINA FRASER  
CAROLE GROOM  
ROSE GUILBAULT  
DAVE PINE  
JOSH POWELL  
JEFF GEE  
RICO E. MEDINA

CARTER MAU  
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER, CEO

June 11, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins, President pro Tempore  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 209  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Governor Newsom, President pro Tem Atkins, and Speaker Rendon:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), I write to voice our appreciation for your steadfast support for California's transit agencies throughout the pandemic and to thank you for proposing significant investments in transit and rail through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 budget.

I also want to communicate our support for a variety of proposals introduced by the Newsom Administration across the January Budget and May Revision, which continue to move through the Legislature, and which will be subject to ongoing negotiations.

Taken together, these budget proposals provide transit agencies with critical relief and additional support to build back better from the pandemic, with greater focus on transitioning to zero-emission technologies, building capacity to mode shift, and delivering good paying jobs to Californians.

### ***Budget Priorities***

- **Transportation Infrastructure and Zero-Emission Vehicles:** Approve the full suite of investments in transportation infrastructure and zero-emission vehicles-infrastructure outlined in the Administration's *California Comeback Plan*, as requested by the California Transit Association (CTA). In particular, maintain the programmatic priorities and investment levels included in the plan that benefit transit agencies, including but not limited to, the set-aside for zero-emission bus vehicle incentives and infrastructure

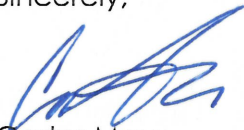
funding. SamTrans has committed to fully electrifying our fleet by 2038 and maintains a strong belief in the importance of moving forward with electrification. SamTrans has utilized other state programs like the California Air Resources Board's Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project (HVIP) to purchase ten buses. These proposed funding programs will help SamTrans and other transit agencies make continued progress on the State's goal to convert all transit buses to zero-emission technologies.

- **Statutory Relief for Transit Agencies:** SamTrans supports CTA's request to approve the full suite of statutory relief measures for transit agencies included in the Administration's trailer bill language (with modifications). As you know well, the pandemic precipitated a crisis at transit agencies statewide as fare revenue and sales tax losses and the escalating cost of front-line efforts to maintain public health severely threatened agency fiscal solvency and operational capacity. In the immediate onset of the pandemic, SamTrans daily ridership plummeted by nearly 70 percent and has yet to rebound to its pre-pandemic levels. Even with the valuable emergency support provided at the federal level, transit agencies estimate that ridership will remain depressed through calendar year 2023. The Administration's statutory relief proposals could help ensure transit agencies are not penalized in state funding programs for ridership and farebox recovery data that reflect pandemic conditions and not the underlying performance of transit.
- **Back to Transit Strategies:** SamTrans also supports CTA's request to provide transit agencies with additional funding to support strategies to win riders back. Together with our Bay Area partners, SamTrans is developing a comprehensive regional Return to Transit Strategy and this funding could support implementation of short-term fare free/reduced fare transit pilot programs; healthy transit initiatives, projects to improve the customer experience; comprehensive operational analyses; and community engagement efforts.

For additional details, please refer to the California Transit Association's May 26 letter, included as an **Attachment**.

Thank you for considering these budget priorities. Please contact Jessica Epstein from the SamTrans Government and Community Affairs staff at [epsteinj@samtrans.com](mailto:epsteinj@samtrans.com) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Carter Mau  
Acting General Manager/CEO

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