

SAMTRANS
CORRESPONDENCE
as of 8-4-2020

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

August 3, 2020

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) and all who rely on public transportation, I thank you for providing emergency funding for public transit agencies in the Coronavirus Aid, Resources, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. With your support, California's transit agencies have already received \$3.74 billion in new transit funding that has helped us weather the most immediate impacts of the pandemic.

Unfortunately, the financial crisis facing public transit agencies has only grown, and the threat of permanent reductions and elimination of local public transit services loom large without additional financial assistance. Therefore, as you consider the next round of emergency actions to support critical industry, **we respectfully urge you to provide at least \$32 billion in new emergency funding to public transit agencies nationwide. Funding should be targeted to those regions/transit operators with the greatest need for resources to protect jobs and maintain service.**

Due to the pandemic, Caltrain has experienced a ridership decline of 95 percent and has cut back service to 70 trains per day. Meanwhile, SamTrans has experienced a 75 percent ridership decline as well as service reductions on 31 of 76 of the fixed route service.

The loss of ridership has been catastrophic for Caltrain. Unlike other Bay Area transit systems, Caltrain does not have diversified, dedicated revenue sources. More than 70 percent of its operating costs are covered by fares and other self-generated revenues.

Caltrain is only operating today because of the CARES Act funding but it is not enough. If the reduced ridership trend continues, which we expect it will in the coming months, Caltrain will require additional financial resources by fall 2020. Absent additional resources, the railroad will be in a precarious financial position and will have to consider the possibility of suspending passenger service.

The emergency funding level we are requesting would address the remaining needs of California transit agencies after fully accounting for the investments made by the CARES Act and is necessary to prevent further, substantial harm to our service.

Without additional funding, it could take years for our service to recover from today's crisis, resulting in the elimination of important mobility options for millions of Californians and the unnecessary delay of California's economic recovery.

With that funding, we would be able to continue to provide critical transportation options to the healthcare, public safety, grocery store, and restaurant workers in our communities classified as essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Data shows that these workers – specifically, those riding public transit today – are overwhelmingly low-income and/or people of color who lack access to other mobility options.

Now is the time to invest more in our nation's public transportation infrastructure to support jobs, reconnect Americans, and build the necessary infrastructure network to provide critical public transit services and economic opportunities for all.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact Casey Fromson, Director of Government and Community Affairs, at (650) 288-7625 or fromsonc@samtrans.com if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Jim Harinett
General Manager/Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

cc: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board of Directors

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1250 SAN CARLOS AVE
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(650) 508-6200

August 3, 2020

The Honorable Kamala Harris
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harris:

On behalf of San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) and all who rely on public transportation, I thank you for providing emergency funding for public transit agencies in the Coronavirus Aid, Resources, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. With your support, California's transit agencies have already received \$3.74 billion in new transit funding that has helped us weather the most immediate impacts of the pandemic.

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August 3, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) and all who rely on public transportation, I thank you for providing emergency funding for public transit agencies in the Coronavirus Aid, Resources, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. With your support, California's transit agencies have already received \$3.74 billion in new transit funding that has helped us weather the most immediate impacts of the pandemic.

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Jim Hartnett
General Manager/Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

cc: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board of Directors

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(650) 508-6200

August 3, 2020

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) and all who rely on public transportation, I thank you for providing emergency funding for public transit agencies in the Coronavirus Aid, Resources, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. With your support, California's transit agencies have already received \$3.74 billion in new transit funding that has helped us weather the most immediate impacts of the pandemic.

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1250 SAN CARLOS AVE
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(650) 508-6200

August 3, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) and all who rely on public transportation, I thank you for providing emergency funding for public transit agencies in the Coronavirus Aid, Resources, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. With your support, California's transit agencies have already received \$3.74 billion in new transit funding that has helped us weather the most immediate impacts of the pandemic.

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General Manager/Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

cc: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors
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1250 SAN CARLOS AVE
SAN CARLOS, CA 94070
(650) 508-6200

August 3, 2020

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-220, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) and all who rely on public transportation, I thank you for providing emergency funding for public transit agencies in the Coronavirus Aid, Resources, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. With your support, California's transit agencies have already received \$3.74 billion in new transit funding that has helped us weather the most immediate impacts of the pandemic.

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Jim Hartnett
General Manager/Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

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Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board of Directors

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

August 3, 2020

Speaker Pro Tempore Kevin Mullin
Assembly Member, 22nd District
State Capitol, Room 3160
Sacramento, CA 94249

Dear Speaker pro Tem Mullin:

On behalf of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain), the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) and all who rely on public transportation, I write to thank you for providing transit agencies with temporary statutory relief in the June budget.

These relief measures are critical to ensuring transit agencies, like Caltrain and SamTrans, can apply the state funding they already receive toward maintaining transit service as they confront the public health crisis.

Now, as you consider the next round of emergency actions to support critical industry, we respectfully urge you to provide at least \$3.1 billion in new emergency funding to California's transit agencies as part of a larger funding package for the transit industry.

This emergency funding would address critical funding needs at transit agencies statewide to prevent devastating permanent reductions of transit services and ensure public transportation is still a viable option for communities most in need.

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We, of course, understand there are serious and competing needs for limited state resources. However, please consider that additional funding to ensure transit agencies can continue to provide service is critical to a balanced economic recovery, to our quality of life and to achieving our state's ambitious environmental goals.

We, therefore, respectfully ask you and the Governor to prioritize funding for public transit as we work to maintain this essential lifeline service in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact Casey Fromson, Director of Government and Community Affairs, at (650) 288-7625 or fromsonc@samtrans.com if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Jim Hartnett
General Manager/Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

CC: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California
The Honorable Toni Atkins, President pro Tempore, California State Senate
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board of Directors
San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors

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1250 SAN CARLOS AVE
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August 3, 2020

The Honorable Jerry Hill
Senator, 13th District
State Capitol, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Hill:

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Jim Harnett

General Manager/Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

CC: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California
The Honorable Toni Atkins, President pro Tempore, California State Senate
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
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1250 SAN CARLOS AVE
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August 3, 2020

The Honorable Marc Berman
Assembly Member, 24th District
State Capitol, Room 6011
Sacramento, CA 94249

Dear Assembly Member Berman:

On behalf of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain), the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) and all who rely on public transportation, I write to thank you for providing transit agencies with temporary statutory relief in the June budget.

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Caltrain is only operating today because of the CARES Act funding but it is not enough. If the reduced ridership trend continues, which we expect it will in the coming months, Caltrain will require additional financial resources by fall 2020. Absent additional resources, the railroad will be in a precarious financial position and will have to consider the possibility of suspending passenger service.

The emergency funding level we are requesting would address the remaining needs of California transit agencies after fully accounting for the investments made by the federal CARES Act and is necessary to prevent further, substantial harm to our service. Without additional funding, it could take years for our service to recover from today's crisis, resulting in the elimination of important mobility options for millions of Californians and the unnecessary delay of California's economic recovery.

With that funding, we would be able to continue to provide critical transportation options to the healthcare, public safety, grocery store, and restaurant workers in our communities classified as essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Data shows that these workers – specifically, those riding public transit today – are overwhelmingly low-income and/or people of color who lack access to other mobility options.

We, of course, understand there are serious and competing needs for limited state resources. However, please consider that additional funding to ensure transit agencies can continue to provide service is critical to a balanced economic recovery, to our quality of life and to achieving our state's ambitious environmental goals.

We, therefore, respectfully ask you and the Governor to prioritize funding for public transit as we work to maintain this essential lifeline service in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact Casey Fromson, Director of Government and Community Affairs, at (650) 288-7625 or fromsonc@samtrans.com if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Jim Hartnett
General Manager/Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

CC: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California
The Honorable Toni Atkins, President pro Tempore, California State Senate
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board of Directors
San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors

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

August 3, 2020

The Honorable David Chiu
Assembly Member, 17th District
State Capitol, Room 4112
Sacramento, CA 94249

Dear Assembly Member Chiu:

On behalf of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain), the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) and all who rely on public transportation, I write to thank you for providing transit agencies with temporary statutory relief in the June budget.

These relief measures are critical to ensuring transit agencies, like Caltrain and SamTrans, can apply the state funding they already receive toward maintaining transit service as they confront the public health crisis.

Now, as you consider the next round of emergency actions to support critical industry, we respectfully urge you to provide at least \$3.1 billion in new emergency funding to California's transit agencies as part of a larger funding package for the transit industry.

This emergency funding would address critical funding needs at transit agencies statewide to prevent devastating permanent reductions of transit services and ensure public transportation is still a viable option for communities most in need.

Due to the pandemic, Caltrain has experienced a ridership decline of 95 percent and has cut back service to 70 trains per day. Meanwhile, SamTrans has experienced a 75 percent ridership decline as well as service reductions on 31 of 76 of the fixed route service.

The loss of ridership has been catastrophic for Caltrain. Unlike other Bay Area transit systems, Caltrain does not have diversified, dedicated revenue sources. More than 70 percent of its operating costs are covered by fares and other self-generated revenues.

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The emergency funding level we are requesting would address the remaining needs of California transit agencies after fully accounting for the investments made by the federal CARES Act and is necessary to prevent further, substantial harm to our service. Without additional funding, it could take years for our service to recover from today's crisis, resulting in the elimination of important mobility options for millions of Californians and the unnecessary delay of California's economic recovery.

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We, of course, understand there are serious and competing needs for limited state resources. However, please consider that additional funding to ensure transit agencies can continue to provide service is critical to a balanced economic recovery, to our quality of life and to achieving our state's ambitious environmental goals.

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Jim Hartnett
General Manager/Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

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

August 3, 2020

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Senator, 11th District
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Wiener:

On behalf of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain), the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) and all who rely on public transportation, I write to thank you for providing transit agencies with temporary statutory relief in the June budget.

These relief measures are critical to ensuring transit agencies, like Caltrain and SamTrans, can apply the state funding they already receive toward maintaining transit service as they confront the public health crisis.

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