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(650) 508-6200

September 10, 2020

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

RE: SB 288 (Wiener) CEQA exemption: transportation related  
projects -- Request for Signature (As Enrolled on 8/31/20)

Dear Governor Newsom,

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 respectfully request that you sign SB 288 (Wiener), which accelerates sustainable transit projects that will get people back to work and increase transportation choices by providing a two-year CEQA exemption.

This bill would save critical time and money by creating specific CEQA exemptions for projects that make streets safer for walking and bicycling, speed up transit service in the public right of way, reduce parking, and install zero-emission infrastructure.

Notably, SB 288 contains important provisions to help ensure projects are delivering jobs for skilled and trained workers, identifying ways to benefit our most vulnerable communities and are designed to deliver strong value to taxpayers. To protect community involvement and support community led planning, the bill requires that public agencies must also provide opportunities for public participation in the project in order to receive the exemption. To ensure that the projects have no significant impact on the environment, the bill also requires that projects must be located in an urbanized area and located on existing public rights of way. Finally, large projects must also be incorporated in a regional transportation plan or another plan that complies with CEQA at the programmatic level.

This change is necessary at the state level in order to ensure that sustainable transit is part of all of California's recovery strategy. Making it easier to take transit, bike, and walk plays an important role in revitalizing main streets and local economies, which will be critical for the recovery of small businesses. The bill is a no-cost stimulus that has no economic impact on the state budget.

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For these reasons, I respectfully request that you sign SB 288. Please feel free to reach out to Casey Fromson, Director of Government and Community Affairs, at (650) 288-7625 or fromsonc@samtrans.com if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Jim Hartnett  
General Manager/CEO/Executive Director

Cc: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors  
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board of Directors  
San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors  
Rachel Wagoner, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Senator Scott Wiener