

C/CAG

CITY/COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

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February 18, 2022

Mr. Chad Edison
Chief Deputy Secretary, Rail and Transit
California State Transportation Agency
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350B
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Deputy Secretary Edison:

On behalf of the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG), I am writing to express our enthusiastic support of the San Mateo County Transit District's (SamTrans) application for a 2022 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) grant to help fund the installation of critical bus charging infrastructure and expansion of SamTrans zero-emission fleet.

The construction of charging infrastructure will be the first phase in modernizing SamTrans bus bases, in San Carlos and South San Francisco, addressing an unmet need to support an all zero-emission fleet by 2038 - a goal adopted by the San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors. This infrastructure upgrade supports SamTrans' plans to expand its fleet to include new battery/electric buses (BEB).

SamTrans pre-pandemic ridership was approximately 85 percent low income with over 40 percent being extremely low income. With the principals of social equity in mind, beginning in 2023, SamTrans plans to launch a zero-emission limited stop/express bus route connecting East Palo Alto, several major employers along the US-101 corridor, SFO, and the BART system at the San Bruno Station. This route was designed to improve service and advance clean technology in one of San Mateo County's most impacted historically disadvantaged communities.

In the near term, this project will expand the SamTrans zero-emissions fleet through the procurement of additional BEBs. These zero-emission buses will serve areas and communities with a high proportion of low income and transit dependent individuals. It is also the first step in the modernizing SamTrans bus infrastructure to support zero emissions goals, which will reduce the region's greenhouse gas and carbon emissions, provide increased access to clean and affordable public transportation, and reduce SamTrans' dependence on traditional sources of energy, such as fossil fuels.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter of support. We hope you will consider the SamTrans project for 2022 TIRCP funding. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at scharpentier@smcgov.org.

Sincerely,



Sean Charpentier
Executive Director