

C/CAG

CITY/COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

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March 20, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Letter of Support for Congressionally Directed Spending Request for SamTrans Real Time Information Upgrades

Dear Senator Padilla,

On behalf of the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG), I write in support of San Mateo County Transit District's (SamTrans) Congressionally Directed Spending Request of \$2 million for real-time information upgrades to bus stops as part of the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations process. This project will help SamTrans update/install real time passenger information signs at approximately 200 bus stops across Daly City, South San Francisco, and East Palo Alto.

C/CAG is the County Transportation Agency (CTA) and also the designated Congestion Management Agency (CMA) for San Mateo County. C/CAG represents all of San Mateo County's 764,442 residents through its 21-member Board of Directors that includes a seat for every jurisdiction in San Mateo County. C/CAG works to improve climate resiliency, mobility, the environment, and equity, as well as prioritizing safety throughout San Mateo County. SamTrans's project aligns with all of C/CAG's goals.

With your support, SamTrans will install 31 full color, 22 marquee (one color), and 135 Papercast (e-paper displays that support text-to-speech) signs, which will provide SamTrans customers with real-time information about bus arrivals. SamTrans will prioritize upgrades at stops that have high ridership levels, frequent bus service, serve working families and essential workers, and are located in or near employment centers and community hubs like parks, retail spaces, and schools. Major SamTrans routes ECR, 120, 130, and 296 serve Daly City, South San Francisco, and East Palo Alto, and those four routes account for 60 percent of ridership systemwide.

As part of the Bus Stop Improvement Plan, adopted in Spring 2024, SamTrans conducted extensive multilingual community outreach to understand the bus stop amenities most important to riders. This effort involved collecting approximately 700 survey responses, engaging with business organizations, local jurisdictions, and community groups, and holding over 30 in-depth one-on-one listening sessions with individuals. One of the most requested amenities was real-time information signage to provide customers with accurate bus arrival times.

We applaud SamTrans' efforts to complete these improvements, and we hope you will prioritize this funding as part of the Fiscal Year 2026 Department of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me at: scharpentier@smcgov.org.

Sincerely,



Sean Charpentier
Executive Director
City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County