



**CITY/COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
OF SAN MATEO COUNTY**

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May 1, 2025

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8620
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support Legislative Request for \$2 Billion in New Funding for Public Transit

Dear Senator Wiener and Assemblymember Gabriel:

On behalf of the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG), I write in **SUPPORT** of the legislative requests for request \$2 billion in funding to help transit operators address operating shortfalls as they work to develop long-term revenue solutions. Public transit plays an important role in the Bay Area economy and is vital to meeting our climate and air quality goals. Unfortunately, transit agencies statewide continue to face severe financial challenges. Service cuts and closures would disproportionately impact essential workers, people of color, and working-class families.

The effects of the pandemic have been dramatic and ongoing, and it has impacted transit agencies differently. Some agencies, especially those that were largely self-supporting pre-pandemic, continue to suffer the most, including Caltrain and BART, which both serve San Mateo County and our residents. These agencies are projecting significant operating shortfalls in the coming years. Prior to the pandemic, Caltrain had the highest farebox recovery ratio of any commuter rail system in the Country. Being heavily dependent on fares at a time when workers were staying home has set these systems back financially. While ridership continues to rebound on Caltrain – up 40 percent from a year ago – the agency projects an operating deficit of approximately \$70 million beginning in FY 2027-28. Additional state funding to the region will help Caltrain and BART maintain service levels while we explore longer-term funding options to stabilize these services. SamTrans is the San Mateo County transit provider. Also, to be successful, the funds must ensure geographic distribution so that all San Mateo County transit agencies including SamTrans will also benefit.

C/CAG is the County Transportation Agency and the designated Congestion Management Agency for San Mateo County. C/CAG represents all of San Mateo County's 764,442 residents through its 21-member Board of Directors, with each jurisdiction in the County having a dedicated seat. C/CAG works to improve climate resiliency, mobility, the environment, and equity throughout San Mateo County. For these reasons, C/CAG asks that you please support SB 239 when it is heard in your committee and appreciate your consideration of our requested amendment. Please contact Sean Charpentier, C/CAG Executive Director at scharpentier@smcgov.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Rak', written in a cursive style.

Adam Rak, Chair

City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County