

May 7, 2025

**Re: Regional Transit Funding**

To: SamTrans Board  
SMCTA Board  
C/CAG Board

CC: Caltrain Board  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Honorable Commissioners and Board Members,

We urge you to support a regionally coordinated strategy to fund public transportation, to address the fiscal cliff facing agencies including BART and Caltrain, and to ensure progress on regional transit coordination initiatives that make the system more user-friendly and that are helping to regrow transit ridership.

Over the last five years, the region has been making significant progress with an all agency transit pass pilot that has increased ridership by 40% among participants, better service coordination, and easy to use, coordinated signs that help easily get where they are going. Our counties have the opportunities to rise to the occasion and participate in a regionally coordinated approach to transit funding.

In poll after poll, voters say that they want to prevent transit service cuts, and they want the system to be more convenient and better coordinated.

To get voter support, we will need a strategy that makes the public transportation system better. It will be difficult to ask voters to increase taxes for a measure that will deliver service cuts and that ends initiatives to improve coordination, rather than continuing and improving.

Without this funding, Caltrain, BART, and the region's other highest ridership agencies will face major service cuts, which will limit access, reduce transit ridership, add to greenhouse gas emissions, and compound traffic congestion. Improving public transportation will help boost our economy, make the Bay Area more affordable for all residents, connect our communities, help reach our housing goals, and increase accessible and safe mobility options for all.

Agencies and counties have been negotiating to ensure that funding options fairly address local needs. Thanks for supporting local needs while ensuring that we save, improve, and coordinate service.

Sincerely,

<p>Evelyn Stivers Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County</p> <p>Jordan Grimes Greenbelt Alliance</p> <p>Matthew Jones Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition</p> <p>Ben McMullan Center For Independence of Individuals with Disabilities San Mateo County</p> <p>Sandra Lang Peninsula ParaTransit Advisory Committee</p> <p>Sarah Hubbard Sustainable San Mateo County</p> <p>Lauren Weston Executive Director Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet</p> <p>Leora Tanjuatco Ross Peninsula for Everyone</p> <p>Karen Grove Menlo Together</p> <p>Adina Levin Seamless Bay Area</p>	<p>Juslyn Manalo Daly City City Council Member</p> <p>Tom Hamilton San Bruno City Council Member</p> <p>James Coleman South San Francisco City Council Member</p> <p>Isabella Chu Redwood City City Council Member</p> <p>Chris Sturken Redwood City City Council Member</p> <p>Betsy Nash Menlo Park City Council Member</p> <p>Adam Loraine San Mateo City Council Member</p> <p>Phoebe Shin Venkat Foster City City Council Member</p> <p>Rick Bonilla Former Mayor, City of San Mateo</p> <p>Auros Harman San Bruno Planning Commission Chair</p> <p>Max Mautner, San Mateo SamTrans CAC Member</p> <p>John Baker South San Francisco Planning Commissioner</p> <p>John Ebnetter San Mateo Planning Commissioner</p> <p>Katie Behroozi Menlo Park Planning Commissioner</p>
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