

SAMTRANS
CORRESPONDENCE
as of 4-30-2021

From: Dahni-El
To: info@bayareametro.gov
Cc: mtablead@sfmta.com; boardofdirectors@bart.gov; myvoice@actransit.org; [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Board (@caltrain.com)); [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board (@samtrans.com)); Baltao, Elaine fboard.secretary@vta.org; hill@cccta.org; info@seamlessbayarea.org
Subject: Green, Equitable, and Reliable Public Transit
Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 1:34:16 PM

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Dear MTC Commissioners,

Thank you for your attention to AB 629, the Seamless and Resilient Bay Area Transit Act (item 12a on the agenda). I'm thrilled that it has been recommended by MTC's legislative committee. Unfortunately, I cannot attend the live meeting. As a result, in writing, I urge you to support this measure with an eye towards the greatest benefits for riders, equitable access, reliability, and lowering GHG emissions.

In the past, I have considered jobs in Alameda, Redwood City, San Jose, Petaluma, San Francisco, Pleasanton, Fremont, and more. Each time, I quickly checked my public transportation options. Often, I was disappointed with the lack of coordination, duration, and cost as well as the sad alternative of a clogged highway. Uprooting and disrupting my life shouldn't be required to make a living. As for climate change, the science has been settled. Our status quo consumption is a failure. Failing to take climate action is grossly irresponsible this late in the game.

With AB629 and what should emerge afterward, I'm excited about the possibility of using coordinated public transit with simple integrated fares to visit friends, museums, theatrical spaces, other cities, and more in and around the Bay Area without driving. Brainless commuting without a calculator would be a treasure.

With COVID-19 based safety improvements, the effectiveness of double masking, and increasing vaccinations, many Bay Area residents will seek to patch the dynamism of their lives back together. For some, this could mean working further away than normal. Public transportation ridership will rise again and should rise better. After largely being indoors for a year, no one wants to be stuck on the 880, 980, 580, 680, the Bay Bridge, the Golden Gate Bridge, etc (with many vehicles belching GHG). Well coordinated and affordable public transit is a part of the solution -- part of the better.

Your open minded support to declare that it is the state's policy that all transportation agencies in the Bay Area work towards common goals, including integrating all transit in the region to operate as "one seamless easy-to-use, multi-modal transit system from the perspective of the user" will help make a better future possible for the Bay Area. Further, it sends a message of support to those desperately seeking evidence of a transition or evolution from this unsustainable status quo.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Dahni-El
Oakland, CA