

SamTrans
CORRESPONDENCE

as of 7-17-2019



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JIM HARTNETT
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

July 9, 2019

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Anna,

I received a copy of your letter to the Federal Transit Administration in support of SamTrans' application for funding under the Bus and Bus Facilities Program. We very much appreciate your continued efforts on behalf of San Mateo County and the members of the public we serve. With this funding, we will be able continue with the mission to reduce our carbon footprint and purchase more battery electric buses to serve our communities in addition to modernizing our infrastructure to accommodate the new electric bus technology.

We would not be where we are today without your support and leadership. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to support SamTrans.

Sincerely,


Jim Hartnett
General Manager/CEO

*Hope you doing well. Thank you for all your support
Jim*

cc: SamTrans Board of Directors

July 8, 2019

Dear Members of the SamTrans Board of Directors,

We write on behalf of the Transportation Equity Allied Movement Coalition (TEAMC) members listed below to address the SamTrans fare change proposal. TEAMC advances community-supported transportation solutions that promote greater access to opportunity, social equity, public health and safety, and environmental protection. We engage and empower historically underrepresented communities to advocate for a public transportation system that better serves all of our needs, including youth, seniors, and low-income people with disabilities. TEAMC played a leading role in helping to pass Measure W and we support a fare structure that is consistent with our principles which are listed below.

We are pleased that SamTrans has leveraged the infusion of new Measure W funds to avoid the planned service cuts and fare increases and is now proposing a series of changes to reduce the barriers of using the system and increase ridership, including:

- Continuing the postponement of the fare increase
- Reducing cost of adult day passes to \$4.50 and Youth/Eligible Discount to \$2.20
- Instituting free transfers
- Applying local fare to routes 292, 397, & 398
- Replacing metal tokens with paper

We applaud the agency for proposing these changes, and we recommend the agency look into deeper affordability strategies to increase ridership, reduce congestion, address the climate crisis, and mitigate the high cost of living in San Mateo County. Specifically, we encourage SamTrans to:

- Institute a free-transit-for-all program, similar to what [LA Metro is considering](#) and what a rising number of [European cities and countries](#) have already established, including [Luxembourg](#).
- Consider affordable strategies to increase access to essential destinations for disadvantaged populations with limited access to transit. We are interested in learning more about the On-Demand Taxi Fare Subsidy Pilot Program.

We also strongly recommend that the agency double down on creating a seamless transfer experience between operators (fares and service) and making SamTrans bus service fast, frequent, and convenient for more people to use. We fully recognize that making transit free is only part of the solution and must invest in creating a system that is competitive with the automobile in regard to travel time and convenience.

Thank you for your consideration in making these changes happen to benefit all residents and commuters in San Mateo County, especially low-income transit dependent families, youth, seniors, people with disabilities and other populations with the greatest mobility barriers.

Sincerely,

Chris Lepe
Regional Policy Director
TransForm
clepe@transformca.org

Bob Allen
Policy and Advocacy Campaign Director
Urban Habitat
bob@urbanhabitat.org

Mike McCord
President and Board Member
Citizens Environmental Council of Burlingame
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Doug Silverstein
Treasurer and Board Member
Citizens Environmental Council of Burlingame
doug@greensmc.org

Diane Bailey
Executive Director
Menlo SPARK
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Sandra Lang
Member of TEAMC
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Eduardo "Lalo" González
Program Manager, San Mateo County
Youth Leadership Institute
egonzalez@yli.org

TEAMC Principles

- Increase use and access of affordable, safe, and healthy transportation choices to jobs, schools, and other destinations by:
 - Enhancing and expanding existing transportation services and amenities
 - Leveraging new technologies and innovative approaches

- Prioritize transportation funding and other investments for populations in greatest need, including:
 - Improving mobility and access for low-income communities of color, youth, seniors, and people with disabilities.
 - Improving safety for people walking and biking, especially at or near major transit stops and in areas with high numbers of serious or fatal collisions – without criminalizing people of color and low income communities.
- Broaden the region’s economic prosperity and avoid ongoing displacement of low and moderate income families by:
 - Creating economic opportunities for communities experiencing longstanding unemployment and poverty, including living wage jobs within the transportation sector.
 - Protecting the existing affordable housing stock and providing sufficient new affordable housing options near transit, jobs, and essential services.
- Advance climate protection and environmental justice, including:
 - Providing sufficient funding for climate adaptation and ensuring projects and programs significantly reduce carbon emissions.
 - Increasing access to health-promoting activities and reducing exposure to air pollution for communities suffering from high chronic disease rates.
- Ensure meaningful community engagement in transportation decision making so that projects and policies reflect the needs of those most affected and ultimately result in better projects and programs.

From: Kris Campos-Flores
To: [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board@samtrans.com)
Subject: Please Support Moving Forward Immediately with the Fare Integration
Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 11:09:09 AM

SamTrans Board,

I was disappointed to learn that in June, the Clipper Executive Board, which SamTrans participates in, voted to delay advancement of a Business Case Study for Fare Integration.

I'm writing you to urge that SamTrans strongly supports the immediate advancement of the Business Case Study for Fare Integration alongside other transit agencies in the region, MTC, and the Clipper Executive Board over the coming months and years.

Over the last several decades, numerous regions around the world, including regions with many cities and transit agencies, have successfully integrated their fare systems to create a fair, simple system of pricing that encourages transit use and has led to increasing ridership over time.

It is long past time for the Bay Area to introduce similar reforms to better serve transit riders and get more people to use transit.

Kris Campos-Flores
kcampos0101@gmail.com
937 Willowleaf Drive, Apt 702
San Jose, California 95128

From: Auros Harman
To: [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board@samtrans.com)
Subject: Please Support Moving Forward Immediately with the Fare Integration
Date: Tuesday, July 09, 2019 11:16:59 AM

SamTrans Board,

I was disappointed to learn that in June, the Clipper Executive Board, which SamTrans participates in, voted to delay advancement of a Business Case Study for Fare Integration.

I'm writing you to urge that SamTrans strongly supports the immediate advancement of the Business Case Study for Fare Integration alongside other transit agencies in the region, MTC, and the Clipper Executive Board over the coming months and years.

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It is long past time for the Bay Area to introduce similar reforms to better serve transit riders and get more people to use transit.

Auros Harman
rmharman@auros.org
633 2nd Ave
San Bruno, California 94066

From: Monica Mallon
To: [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board@samtrans.com)
Subject: Please Support Moving Forward Immediately with the Fare Integration
Date: Tuesday, July 09, 2019 11:32:05 AM

SamTrans Board,

I was disappointed to learn that in June, the Clipper Executive Board, which SamTrans participates in, voted to delay advancement of a Business Case Study for Fare Integration.

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Monica Mallon
monica.mallon@sjsu.edu
14854 Union Ave
San Jose, California 95124

From: Jeremy Smith
To: [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board@samtrans.com)
Subject: Please Support Moving Forward Immediately with the Fare Integration
Date: Tuesday, July 09, 2019 10:46:47 AM

SamTrans Board,

I was disappointed to learn that in June, the Clipper Executive Board, which SamTrans participates in, voted to delay advancement of a Business Case Study for Fare Integration.

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It is long past time for the Bay Area to introduce similar reforms to better serve transit riders and get more people to use transit.

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