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1250 SAN CARLOS AVE
SAN CARLOS, CA 94070
(650) 508-6200

September 7, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 339 (Wiener) – Gas Tax Alternative Pilot – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) and the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA), I am writing to request that you sign Senate Bill 339 (Wiener), the Gas Tax Alternative Pilot.

This bill will extend the State's ability to pilot a road user charge system, allowing for a more robust understanding of how such a system would operate and the potential benefits from replacing the gas tax with a fee associated with road use. The bill takes another step forward by allowing the practitioners of the pilot to collect the fee associated with a road user charge to test collection methodology and study revenue streams.

Although the gas tax has been the primary source of transportation infrastructure funding, the necessities for adjustment through SB 1 (Beall, 2017) showed inherent faults with our current system. As gasoline consumption continues to plummet, and electric vehicles (EV) continue to become more commonplace, the gas tax will need significant alterations, or a new system for transit funding must be adopted. Further, in its current state, the gas tax allows those with the upfront money to escape the tax through the purchase of an EV.

This transition away from combustion engines has been encouraged through policies such as your recent executive order banning the sale of new internal combustion engine vehicles by 2035, however, this shift in California's fleet has yet to be fully reflected in our road funding, outside of small EV registration fees. This outdated reliance on the gas tax is resulting in the burden of transportation infrastructure funding being placed on the shoulders of our lower income communities. A road user charge system allows for road funding to be based on how much our roads are used by a particular individual, rather than their gasoline consumption and their vehicles fuel efficiency.

For these reasons, SamTrans and the TA, supports SB 339 and hope you will take the opportunity to sign this bill into law.

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The Honorable Gavin Newsom
September 7, 2021
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Please contact Government and Community Affairs Manager Jessica Epstein at epsteinj@samtrans.com if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carter Mau".

Carter Mau
Acting General Manager/Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

Cc: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors
San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors
San Mateo County Transit District State Legislative Delegation
San Mateo County Transportation Authority State Legislative Delegation