

**SAMTRANS**  
**CORRESPONDENCE**  
**as of 9-17-2021**



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ACTING GENERAL MANAGER, CEO

September 15, 2021

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

**Re: SB 44 (Allen) Judicial Streamlining – SIGNATURE REQUEST**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), I write to you in **SUPPORT** of SB 44 (Allen) and request that you please **SIGN** this bill at the appropriate time. SB 44 will accelerate common-sense and sustainable transportation projects, while paving the way for additional opportunities for transit agencies to use a similar process in the future. Specifically, SB 44 makes it easier to build environmentally friendly bus rapid transit and rail projects.

In 2011, the Legislature passed AB 900 (Buchanan & Gordon) and SB 292 (Padilla), establishing expedited CEQA judicial review procedures for a limited number of large-scale “leadership” projects, including sports arenas/stadiums and convention centers, that meet specified environmental standards and that create new construction jobs and investment in the state.

These bills were enacted because the Legislature acknowledged that CEQA litigation – and the timelines associated with it – often creates an impediment to the delivery of important projects.

SB 44 builds on these statutes to establish temporary and conditional expedited administrative and judicial review procedures under CEQA for a narrow category of transit projects that reduce VMT, transportation-related emissions, are consistent with a region’s applicable sustainable communities strategy or alternative planning strategy, and that are consistent with the applicable regional transportation plan.

If successfully implemented, this bill could help our agencies model the provisions outlined in SB 44 in order to more efficiently build projects that will bring significant benefits to the Bay Area in the future. For these reasons, we encourage you to please sign SB 44.

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The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
September 15, 2021  
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Please contact Government and Community Affairs Manager Jessica Epstein at [epsteinj@samtrans.com](mailto: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/CEO

Cc: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors  
Senator Ben Allen



September 15, 2021

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

**RE: AB 917 (Bloom) Safe & Reliable Access to Transit Services – SIGNATURE REQUEST**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), I write to voice our **SUPPORT** for Assembly Bill 917 (Bloom) and ask that you please **SIGN** this bill at the appropriate time. This bill would expand current state law to authorize transit agencies to use camera technology to discourage illegal parking in transit-only lanes and at transit stops where parking is already prohibited under existing law. This bill does not create any new violations and would establish extremely important data collection, data retention, and data sharing standards for agencies wishing to use this technology, designed to protect the public's privacy. Additionally, to address equity issues, the bill requires transit agencies to ensure certain protocols are in place to assist low-income violators before undertaking a program.

Under AB 917, transit agencies would be authorized to install forward-facing cameras on their transit vehicles to collect images of parking violations that occur in transit-only lanes and at transit stops. The parking citations do not negatively impact a driver's record, carry the same fine as a parking ticket, and can be appealed. The bill contains privacy protections and sets noticing requirements for a newly enacted program and sets public noticing requirements for a newly enacted program, as well as a 60-day warning period.

California has witnessed a growing number of cars on the state's roads in recent years, and with it an increase in drivers parking in designated transit-only lanes and at transit stops. Illegal parking in these zones compromises transit operators' ability to provide safe, reliable, and accessible public transit service. Until the vehicle relocates, transit-only lanes and transit stops are effectively rendered out of service. This reduces transit system reliability by slowing down transit vehicle speeds and negatively impacts transit riders.

In addition to the service impacts, a partially blocked transit stop creates significant safety concerns. When a transit operator is not able to reach the curb, riders are forced to negotiate the street and the gap that is created between the transit vehicle and the curb. This is a potentially dangerous maneuver for riders to make, and an impossible one for those with a disability or mobility impairments, including seniors.

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
September 15, 2021  
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SamTrans has long-supported efforts allowing transit agencies to use innovative technologies to improve service and passenger safety and we are pleased to **SUPPORT** AB 917 (Bloom). Thank you for your consideration.

Please contact Government and Community Affairs Manager Jessica Epstein at [epsteinj@samtrans.com](mailto:epsteinj@samtrans.com) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Carter Mau  
Acting General Manager/CEO

Cc: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors  
Assembly Member Richard Bloom

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(650) 508-6200

September 15, 2021

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

**Re: AB 1499 (Daly) Design-Build – SIGNATURE REQUEST**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) and the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA), I write in **SUPPORT** of AB 1499 (Daly) and request that you please **SIGN** this bill at the appropriate time. This bill would extend the January 1, 2024 sunset date for the utilization of the design-build procurement method for projects on or adjacent to the state highway system to January 1, 2034.

The use of design-build procurement as a project delivery tool has demonstrated significant schedule and cost savings. Allowing sponsoring transportation agencies to combine design and construction activities, utilizes resources more efficiently while saving the public time and limited funding resources.

Currently, up to 10 projects statewide are authorized for using design-build approach. This procurement method could provide another tool that may allow our agency, in coordination with Caltrans, to pursue other high-priority highway projects in the San Mateo County region.

The enactment of SB1, approval of local sales tax measures, and receipt of federal stimulus funds, has increased the need for maintaining procurement methods that will help expedite project delivery in order to best utilize public resources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, traffic congestion, and enhance mobility within the region.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 1499 and appreciate your consideration. Please contact Government and Community Affairs Manager Jessica Epstein at [epsteinj@samtrans.com](mailto: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 CEO/General Manager/Executive Director

Cc: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors  
San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors  
Assembly Member Tom Daly