

SAMTRANS
CORRESPONDENCE
as of 10-2-2020

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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

October 2, 2020

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
United States House of Representatives
202 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Eshoo:

On behalf of San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) and all who rely on public transportation, I write to personally **thank you for your unwavering support for transit agencies and your support of the updated Heroes Act and the \$32 billion that is included for emergency transit funding.**

Thanks to your efforts, California's transit agencies have already received emergency funding through the CARES Act, which helped us weather the most immediate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unfortunately, this pandemic is nearing its seventh month and public transportation systems across the nation are still facing urgent and dire situations. While our nation's transit agencies work to maintain essential services and serve essential employees every day, additional federal support is critical to ensuring that public transit agencies can survive and help our communities and nation recover from the economic fallout of the pandemic.

The funding included in the updated Heroes Act is a lifeline for our industry. Without additional emergency funding, many public transit agencies will soon be forced to cut services and routes for essential workers and furlough their workers, leaving our communities without service and jobs when they need them the most.

Due to the pandemic, Caltrain has experienced a ridership decline of 95 percent and has cut back service to 70 trains per day. Meanwhile, SamTrans has experienced a 75 percent ridership decline as well as service reductions on 31 of 76 of the fixed route service lines.

The loss of ridership has been catastrophic for Caltrain. Unlike other Bay Area transit systems, Caltrain does not have diversified, dedicated revenue sources. More than 70 percent of its operating costs are covered by fares and other self-generated revenues.

Caltrain remains in operation today because of critical financial relief provided by CARES Act funding earlier this year, but it is not enough. If the reduced ridership trend continues, which we expect it will in the coming

The Honorable Anna Eshoo

October 2, 2020

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months, Caltrain will require additional financial resources by the end of 2020. Absent these resources, the railroad will be in a precarious financial position and will have to consider the possibility of suspending passenger service and laying off workers.

I want to thank you again for your continued support of public transportation that is so fundamental to the vitality and health of our region, the state, and the entire country. We truly appreciate all of your efforts.

Please contact Casey Fromson, Director of Government and Community Affairs, at (650) 288-7625 or fromsonc@samtrans.com if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Hartnett", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim Hartnett

General Manager/Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

cc: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board of Directors

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

October 2, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) and all who rely on public transportation, I write to personally **thank you for your unwavering support for transit agencies and your support of the updated Heroes Act and the \$32 billion that is included for emergency transit funding.**

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Jim Hartnett

General Manager/Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

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SAN CARLOS, CA 94070
(650) 508-6200

October 2, 2020

The Honorable Jackie Speier
United States House of Representatives
2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Speier:

On behalf of San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) and all who rely on public transportation, I write to personally **thank you for your unwavering support for transit agencies and your support of the updated Heroes Act and the \$32 billion that is included for emergency transit funding.**

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