

SAMTRANS
CORRESPONDENCE
as of 4-3-2020

From: Adina Levin
To: [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board@samtrans.com)
Subject: General public comment for 4/1 Board Meeting
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 8:32:20 PM

Dear SamTrans board members and staff,

Thank you very much for hosting remote meetings and allowing public comment during this time of emergency.

In addition to taking written public comment, we are starting to see a number of jurisdictions use the features of Zoom for Public Comment.

Members of the public can be muted until the time comes for public comment, and can raise their hand using a Zoom feature. When called on, the clerk can unmute the speaker, and when their time is up they can be muted again.

This has worked well in jurisdictions including:

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/bos/Pages/Meetings.aspx>

City of Milpitas
<https://twitter.com/StevenDLee/status/1242466290620461059/photo/1>

We would urge SamTrans to do the same to facilitate public input while meetings are being held remotely because of the Shelter In Place orders.

Thank you very much,

Adina
Adina Levin
Friends of Caltrain
<https://greencaltrain.com>
650-646-4344

From: John Baker
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: CAC report
Date: Wednesday, April 01, 2020 1:38:24 PM

While the CAC did not meet this month because of the shelter in place order, I would like to take my time on behalf of the CAC to thank all the operators and mechanics who stayed online.

I took two round trips over the past two weeks, once for groceries and once to give blood, and the operators were courteous, professional, and understanding. Thank you for still providing service.

John Baker
CAC Vice Chair

From: Adina Levin
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Finance #3 - SB797
Date: Wednesday, April 01, 2020 2:54:14 PM

If possible, I would like to use the Zoom Audio to give the comments, but if not possible, here is the comment for the clerk to read...

This Adina Levin from Friends of Caltrain. As you may know, a key element of our mission is stable funding for Caltrain, as part of a regionally integrated public transportation system, accessible to all. While these are extremely uncertain times, it is good to see Caltrain's partners keep the option open for a ballot measure to provide stable funding for Caltrain and invest in increasing capacity, ridership, and traffic relief.

Most of you remember the very close vote with Measure W. As you know, Friends of Caltrain participated in a coalition of transit justice and environmental groups who provided input to shape the expenditure plan and then served as the grassroots arm of the Measure W campaign, marshalling well over 100 volunteers to reach many thousands of voters through canvassing, phone and text-banking.

This is something that we would like to be able to support if it moves forward. The two things that we are looking for. First, equity in expenditures and policies. The resolution briefly mentions means-based fares as an equity measure, but Caltrain's equity study has more recommendations we would like to see incorporated.

Second, and not least, we see in the presentation slide 17 that the measure is expected to transform the financial relationship of partners to Caltrain's budgets, eliminating contributions to annual operating/maintenance, and increasing contributions to major capital projects. However, these changes and the process to define them, are not mentioned in the resolution that the board is approving. We would want to see official recognition of these agreements, so that when we go out to engage voters, we're confident that the ballot measure will deliver the results that we're advertising.

Thank you for your leadership at this difficult time.

- Adina

Adina Levin

Friends of Caltrain

From: Kevin Burke
To: [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board@samtrans.com)
Subject: Re: comment on 10 Proterra bus purchase on Finance Committee agenda
Date: Thursday, April 02, 2020 11:53:51 AM

Hey,

I think now would be a good time to revisit all door boarding on SamTrans buses. Not only would it help with ontime performance and revenue collection but it would also ensure a minimal amount of interaction between passengers and the driver.

Kevin

On Tue, Mar 6, 2018 at 2:13 PM Kevin Burke <kev@inburke.com> wrote:

Hi,

I'm a SamTrans bus rider and a Belmont resident. If I am reading the packet correctly you are going to approve the purchase of 10 Proterra electric buses tomorrow.

It would be great if you could add a provision in the contract for the new buses to allow customers to board them at all doors. This will help speed boarding, which will help SamTrans meet its on-time goals. It should hopefully not be very expensive to add.

Frequently a line forms for the ECR bus behind a passenger in a wheelchair who needs the door to be lowered, or for people to tag their Clipper behind someone who's paying a cash fare.

Similarly, it would be great (if possible) if the articulated bus contract could provide for all-door boarding.

I think better on-time performance and faster travel times (enabled by all-door boarding) should be a higher priority than WiFi onboard buses. (It should also be cheaper)

Thanks,
Kevin

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Kevin Burke
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