

SAMTRANS
CORRESPONDENCE
as of 10-25-2024



OCTOBER 24, 2024



RABA Public Notice

From Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA)

Notice is hereby given that sealed Proposals are requested by Redding Area Bus Authority, (RABA), a Joint Powers Authority, for the Operations and Maintenance of RABA's Transit System. All Proposals shall be submitted in response to the...

IFB 24-09-528 1501 Trench Drain Replacement Project

From Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation (IndyGo)

Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation (IPTC) IFB 24-09-528 1501 Trench Drain Replacement Project Summary: Indianapolis Public Transportation Corp. dba IndyGo, is seeking bids from qualified contractors. This project includes the complete...

St. Clair County Transit District ATS - VIDEO FILE STORAGE SOLUTION

From St. Clair County Transit District

Sealed proposals will be received at the St. Clair County Transit District, 27 N Illinois St., Belleville, Illinois, on or before 3:00 pm on Thursday December 5, 2024 for the 2024 ATS – Video File Storage Solution. Visit www.scctd.org...

The Wave Transit System Maintenance Shop Gutter Repairs and Roof Coating Project

From Wave Transit

Project Number: WTS-01GRRC-2024 Transit Management of Mobile d/b/a The Wave Transit System (The Wave) is seeking bids from qualified contractors for maintenance shop gutter repairs and roof coating at The WAVE's Maintenance and Operation Building...

Buy America Compliant Components

From North County Transit District (NCTD)

NCTD operates the SPRINTER hybrid rail service using Siemens Desiro VT642 diesel multiple unit (DMU) rail vehicles. NCTD is seeking vendors capable of supplying Buy America-compliant replacement parts for the Siemens DMU rail vehicles. Please...

RFP 2024-14 Maintenance Building CNG Renovation

From Lextran

Lextran is issuing this Request for Proposals (RFP) to award a competitive contract to a firm for general contractor services to provide a partial renovation to Lextran's existing maintenance facility. (CNG Safety Airflow) The RFP for the project...

Arup Requesting Statement of Qualifications from Small Businesses for Train Energy Load Modeling

From Arup

Requesting Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from firms with California SB/SB-PW/MB/DVBE or Federal DBE certification for: QA/QC OpenTrack Model, QA/QC OpenPowerNet model, and provide recommendations to resolve issues identified in model.

...

To post a RFP, please contact Amy Stauffer

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Mass Transit
Endeavor Business Media
30 Burton Hills Blvd., Suite 185
Nashville, TN 37215

From: [SamTrans BOD Public Support](#)
To: dbnazarian@yahoo.com
Cc: [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#); ashley.h.kline@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Samtrans Route 46 Safety Concerns, and request for inclusion in board meeting agenda
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 3:12:36 PM

To the Parent Community of Burlingame Intermediate,

Thank you for taking the time to come together and share your concerns with us regarding your families' recent experiences with our Route 46. While we regret the poor experiences that prompted this, we appreciate the feedback on how we can improve our service to address these concerns. To that end, know that your comments were forwarded to the proper parties for review. A copy of this correspondence will also be provided to our Board of Directors.

Our Operations Planning team spent time last week monitoring the 46 to gauge the level of ridership on the route. In response to Operations Planning's findings, SamTrans has added an additional morning bus and an additional afternoon bus to alleviate the crowding on Route 46. This change was put in place yesterday.

As for safety concerns outside of overcrowding, please rest assured that safety remains a top priority for SamTrans. We expect our operators to remain mindful drivers at all times, no matter if it is in the expert handling of their vehicles or in obeying the rules of the road. And regarding student behavior, Burlingame Intermediate School staff will address any such issues during school drop-off and pick-up.

Lastly, to answer your questions about the details of our upcoming Board meeting, it will be held on the 2nd floor auditorium—the Bacciocco Auditorium—at our Central Headquarters in San Carlos. The address of our Central Headquarters is 1250 San Carlos Ave, San Carlos, CA 94070. The date and time of the meeting is November 6th at 2:00 PM. Also, please note that our Board meetings currently have a hybrid format, allowing for in-person and online attendance. You can find more information on our website:

<https://www.samtrans.com/meetings/2024/11/samtrans-board-directors>.

Thank you again for sending us your comments. We hope to continue providing you and the rest of our community with safe and reliable transit service.

Your SamTrans BOD Public Support Team

From: Davina Nazarian Chall <dbnazarian@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, October 18, 2024 8:04:04 PM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik
To: Board (@samtrans.com) <board@samtrans.com>; Public Comment <publiccomment@samtrans.com>
Cc: Ashley Kline <ashley.h.kline@gmail.com>
Subject: Samtrans Route 46 Safety Concerns, and request for inclusion in board meeting agenda

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Dear SamTrans Board,

We are a collective of parents of middle school students at Burlingame Intermediate School in Burlingame, and are writing to express our concern regarding the safety on Samtrans Route 46. As you may know, Route 46 is overcrowded and increasingly unsafe for riders, bus drivers, and the community at large.

The student riders, who are aged 11-13, have experienced bullying, theft, and physical harm on this route as a result of chronic overcrowding. Nearly every student who rides the bus has a horror story to share, and a number have stopped riding the bus this school year due to the unsafe environment created by record ridership on Route 46.

As a community, we are asking for timely attention to this challenge, which has been chronic but has worsened this school year. Many of us attended a joint meeting with the School District, SamTrans and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office following a violent fight on the bus in May 2023.

The problem of bus overcrowding has continued to get worse, and with ridership at new highs this fall, the situation has now reached a tipping point.

An additional bus for Route 46 is immediately needed to accommodate ridership demand and ensure rider and community safety, both for the morning service and afternoon service.

Here is some additional background, for Board Members who may not be familiar with the recent challenges:

1. BUS CROWDING: According to BIS Principal Greg Land, ridership seems to be up 70% this year (student enrollment is also at a record high), but no additional bus capacity has been added. Anecdotally, bus ridership seems to regularly exceed the 1.5 persons per available seat maximum. We have requested a ridership audit, as well as an explanation on methodology. We await those results. Nevertheless, it is possible that the lower weight of the students, paired with aggressive boarding behavior and crowding onto the bus, may result in undercounting if the footplate

methodology is used.

Our hand-counts of a 60-foot articulated bus over a weeklong period show that the bus regularly had more than 80 passengers.

As a related issue, we question the appropriateness of using the same 1.5 riders-per-seat metric for the school-oriented routes that is applied to routes oriented towards adults. The students carry large backpacks and are less mature than adults, resulting in behavior issues that stem from too many riders standing in the aisles.

2. DANGEROUS ENVIRONMENT PRE-BOARD: The lack of capacity on the buses has resulted in many students seeking to get a seat by boarding at the first stop for “Bus 1” on the route, Arundel Road and Howard Avenue (Washington School). This stop is very crowded and rowdy, with typically an estimated 150-180 students jostling for a place in line in hopes of getting a seat on one of the 2 articulated buses that serve the route daily.

We have observed students rushing towards the buses while wheels are still in motion, shoving other kids out of their way, and banging on bus doors. It is our great fear that a student could fall or be pushed into the path of the bus.

Our community has been trying to improve the situation with neighborhood involvement. Two Burlingame Intermediate School fathers often buy donut holes and offer them to students while supervising the bus stop, in an attempt to encourage a more orderly pre-boarding and boarding environment. This is a kind gesture, but not a sustainable solution when the root cause is a lack of sufficient capacity on the route.

The buses are scheduled to make additional stops, but both buses are often at-or over-capacity before leaving the first stop.

3. DANGEROUS ENVIRONMENT ON-BOARD:

The bus ride across town is about 20 minutes, and it is unsupervised. Due to the large number of riders, fight for seats, and packed aisles, there is a high level of undesired physical contact on the bus. This has resulted in aggressive behavior including fights, racial slurs, sexual harassment, and stealing, all of which can be readily viewed on the bus footage available to the Board.

The classic advice to move away from an unsafe situation becomes challenged when the students are shoulder-to-shoulder and physically have nowhere to go.

On September 13, 2024, one of the Route 46 buses had to stop prematurely near

Broadway Avenue and call for Sheriff support due to unsafe conditions on the bus. The students disembarked and our community of parents banded together to get many of the student riders home safely in cars.

4. OVERALL SAFETY: It is our sincere belief that there are dire safety concerns and potential associated legal liability that makes this a critical issue for immediate action.

We are eager to understand what steps might be necessary to make a speedy decision that could improve bus capacity and overall conditions on Route 46. Please confirm that this topic has officially been added as a public comment, as well as included on the upcoming board meeting agenda. Additionally, would appreciate it if you can please share details on the next board meeting including location, date and time.

THANK YOU!

Parent Community of Burlingame Intermediate School

From: [SamTrans BOD Public Support Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#)
To: [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#)
Subject: Re: FCX
Date: Monday, October 21, 2024 3:15:05 PM

To Wen-Chin Chen,

Thank you for sending in feedback of your experiences with the current Route FCX. As before, your comments were forwarded to our Operations Planning team for review. A copy of your correspondence will also be provided to our Board of Directors.

We understand your perspective as a FCX riders regarding these changes, and we realize you are not alone in your concerns. However, please understand that Operations Planning is still in the process of reviewing the effect these changes have had on Route FCX, both in terms of the impact it has had on ridership and on travel time. This analysis also includes exploring routing alternatives, such as what you and other FCX riders have proposed, alongside other potential solutions.

We apologize for any inconvenience in the interim, but we cannot avoid the time investment required to properly review this issue and plan for the future. Rest assured, though, we recognize the importance of keeping our service aligned with our riders' needs, and SamTrans intends to communicate any potential changes to Route FCX to our community.

Your SamTrans BOD Public Support Team

From: Board (@samtrans.com) <Board@samtrans.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2024 9:49 AM
To: SamTrans BOD Public Support <SamTransBODPublicSupport@samtrans.com>
Subject: FW: FCX

From: Wen-Chin Chen <wen2368@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2024 4:49:42 PM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik
To: Board (@samtrans.com) <Board@samtrans.com>
Subject: FCX

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To Board of Directors,

I have been taking FCX express bus from Foster City to San Francisco for work 5 days a week.

Starting August, SamTrans cancelled all the stops on Mission St. and has only one stop at Salesforce center which is on the east end of Market ST in San Francisco. For those who do not work around Salesforce (1st/Mission St), we were told there were options.

Walking, biking and taking Muni prove to be very challenging and stressful especially winter is coming and it gets dark earlier. One rider got seriously injured and had to have surgeries 2 weeks ago because there is no bike lane.

Samtrans claims the new change is because

SalesForce has more lights and restrooms for drivers. New route with one stop can cut back the time since it is express. Samtrans also did a survey a while back with 31 % supported.

I like to encourage the board to look into the fairness of that survey. The survey did not mention about canceling all the stops in SF. One day in July while waiting for the bus on 9th/Mission, I asked 6 other riders waiting there and none of them knew about the survey. New route takes more time circling inside Salesforce and stuck on the local street traffic and highway entrance. We got more than 90% of riders signed the petition for FCX going down the Mission St like Bus 292. Some riders said this new change does not save them time. Why not going down the Mission to pick up more riders.

I do understand that there are quite a lot of riders working around Salesforce. But FCS is not a special bus line to serve that group only, right? More people will be coming back to work on site. One way to encourage people taking buses is to make it more convenient. Transferring discourages people from taking the buses. SamTrans tried it years ago and it did not work. I hope the board members can look into this and make some changes to meet people's needs.

Thank you.

Wen

FCX rider

From: [Adina Levin](#)
To: [MTC-ABAG Info](#)
Subject: Correspondence for Select Committee and Commission
Date: Monday, October 21, 2024 7:36:10 AM
Attachments: [Regional Transit Funding Letter Fall 2024.pdf](#)

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Attached please find a letter regarding regional transit funding options from local elected officials and advisory body members.

- Adina
Adina Levin
Seamless Bay Area
<https://seamlessbayarea.org>
650-646-4344

October 21, 2024

Re: Regional Transit Funding

To:
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Caltrain Board
VTA Board
SamTrans Board

Honorable Commissioners and Board Members,

We urge you to support a regionally coordinated strategy to fund public transportation, to address the fiscal cliff facing agencies including BART and Caltrain, and to ensure progress on regional transit coordination initiatives that make the system more user-friendly and that are helping to regrow transit ridership.

To get voter support, we will need a strategy that makes the public transportation system better. It will be difficult to ask voters to increase taxes for a measure that will deliver service cuts.

Without this funding, Caltrain, BART, and the region's other highest ridership agencies will face major service cuts, which will limit access, reduce transit ridership, add to greenhouse gas emissions, and compound traffic congestion. Cuts will damage the region's economy, hurt transit-dependent people most severely, and take us further away from being able to achieve our goals for housing, livable communities and climate. And cuts to regional services will have a negative impact on ridership of connecting local services.

Improving public transportation will help boost our economy, make the Bay Area more affordable for all residents, connect our communities, reach our housing goals, and increase accessible and safe mobility options for all – but we must act quickly.

Agencies and counties have been negotiating to ensure that funding options fairly address local needs. We also must realize that as Benjamin Franklin said in 1776, we must hang together or we hang separately.

Sincerely,

Jen Wolosin
Menlo Park City Council Member

Chris Sturken
Redwood City City Council Member

John Baker
South San Francisco Planning Commissioner

Auros Harman
San Bruno Planning Commissioner

Jeff Schmidt
Menlo Park Environmental Quality Planning Commissioner

Lucas Ramirez
Mountain View City Council Member

Daniel Howard
Former Sunnyvale Planning Commissioner

Sandra Lang
Member, Paratransit Coordinating Council

Benjamin McMullan
Chair, Paratransit Advocacy Council