



SamTrans Board of Directors

Meeting of June 4, 2025

Correspondence as of May 9, 2025

Subject

1. Comments for Board of Directors Meeting – SamTrans Funding
2. Regionally coordinated transit funding. SamTrans 4J, C/CAG Legislation 4.4, C/CAG 4.4
3. Public Comment 5-7-25 – SamTrans Funding

From: [Public Comment](#)
To: [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: Comments for Board of Directors Meeting
Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 7:29:14 AM

From: Bennet Meyers-Im <bennet.meyers@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:19 PM
To: Public Comment <publiccomment@samtrans.com>
Subject: Comments for Board of Directors Meeting

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am a resident of the City of San Mateo. I would like to comment at your upcoming Board meeting, but I am unfortunately unable to join due to work conflicts. I was horrified to hear that BART [1], Caltrain [2], and SF Muni [3] are facing “fiscal cliffs” that will force massive service cuts if they don’t find new funding in the next 18 months [4]. In my family, we use SamTrams, Caltrain, and BART regularly to get to work, sports practice, hangouts with friends and more, and we would be devastated by the loss of these critical services.

I urge you to set a policy for SamTrans that will support: expanded, multimodal public transportation; stable, progressive, regional funding; and more interagency coordination and cooperation and less fragmented governance. I strongly support a regional transportation funding measure that includes San Mateo County and SamTrans, and I urge you to do polling on *progressive* taxation and not push unpopular funding options like sales tax. San Mateo County and the broader Bay Area deserve to have a world-class transportation system that works seamlessly across different agencies and is affordable to all—and free to as many as possible. Expanded service that provides a real alternative to driving makes people's lives better now, will be a necessity to address climate change, provides good, stable jobs, and is just the right thing to do.

Thank you for your time,
Bennet Meyers-Im, PhD
San Mateo, CA

- [1] <https://www.bart.gov/about/financials/crisis>
- [2] <https://www.caltrain.com/blog/2023/04/financial-future-caltrain>
- [3] <https://www.sfmta.com/project-updates/sfmtas-financial-crisis>
- [4] <https://abc7news.com/post/fiscal-cliffs-looming-policymakers-debate-how-raise-money-save-bay-area-transit-agencies-bart-muni-caltrain/16288721/>

From: [Adina Levin](#)
To: [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#); [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#); [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#); [dsternkopf@smcgov.org](#); [Mima Crume](#); [MTC-ABAG Info](#)
Cc: [Charpentier, Sean \[scharpentier@smcgov.org\]](#); [Jessica Epstein](#); [Rebecca Long](#)
Subject: Regionally coordinated transit funding. SamTrans 4J, C/CAG Legislation 4.4, C/CAG 4.4
Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 12:01:16 PM
Attachments: [Regional Transit Funding Joint Letter Spring 2025.pdf](#)

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Dear transportation agency boards,

Attached please find a joint letter from organizations, elected officials and advisory members urging San Mateo County agencies to support a regionally coordinated approach to transit funding.

Thank you for your consideration,

- Adina

Adina Levin

Executive Director

Seamless Bay Area

<https://seamlessbayarea.org>

650-646-4344

May 7, 2025

Re: Regional Transit Funding

To: SamTrans Board
SMCTA Board
C/CAG Board

CC: Caltrain Board
Metropolitan Transportation Commission

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.

Over the last five years, the region has been making significant progress with an all agency transit pass pilot that has increased ridership by 40% among participants, better service coordination, and easy to use, coordinated signs that help easily get where they are going. Our counties have the opportunities to rise to the occasion and participate in a regionally coordinated approach to transit funding.

In poll after poll, voters say that they want to prevent transit service cuts, and they want the system to be more convenient and better coordinated.

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 and that ends initiatives to improve coordination, rather than continuing and improving.

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

Agencies and counties have been negotiating to ensure that funding options fairly address local needs. Thanks for supporting local needs while ensuring that we save, improve, and coordinate service.

Sincerely,

<p>Evelyn Stivers Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County</p> <p>Jordan Grimes Greenbelt Alliance</p> <p>Matthew Jones Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition</p> <p>Ben McMullan Center For Independence of Individuals with Disabilities San Mateo County</p> <p>Sandra Lang Peninsula ParaTransit Advisory Committee</p> <p>Sarah Hubbard Sustainable San Mateo County</p> <p>Lauren Weston Executive Director Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet</p> <p>Leora Tanjuatco Ross Peninsula for Everyone</p> <p>Karen Grove Menlo Together</p> <p>Adina Levin Seamless Bay Area</p>	<p>Juslyn Manalo Daly City City Council Member</p> <p>Tom Hamilton San Bruno City Council Member</p> <p>James Coleman South San Francisco City Council Member</p> <p>Isabella Chu Redwood City City Council Member</p> <p>Chris Sturken Redwood City City Council Member</p> <p>Betsy Nash Menlo Park City Council Member</p> <p>Adam Loraine San Mateo City Council Member</p> <p>Phoebe Shin Venkat Foster City City Council Member</p> <p>Rick Bonilla Former Mayor, City of San Mateo</p> <p>Auros Harman San Bruno Planning Commission Chair</p> <p>Max Mautner, San Mateo SamTrans CAC Member</p> <p>John Baker South San Francisco Planning Commissioner</p> <p>John Ebnetter San Mateo Planning Commissioner</p> <p>Katie Behroozi Menlo Park Planning Commissioner</p>
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From: [Public Comment](#)
To: [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment 5/7/25
Date: Thursday, May 8, 2025 2:26:52 PM

From: Kyla Valenti <kylalee515@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 12:32 PM
To: Public Comment <publiccomment@samtrans.com>
Subject: Public Comment 5/7/25

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Good afternoon,

My name is Kyla Valenti and I'm a 4-year resident of Redwood City, San Mateo County employee, and member of the Peninsula DSA. Though I'm lucky to live close to work, I use SamTrans regularly to visit friends and attend events in San Jose, SF and beyond. It would be disheartening to see cuts to these services that are a vital part of my social life and affect the daily lives of many fellow residents. Public transportation is something I've loved about living in the Bay after moving from a place with almost no public transit, and I hope to see it grow even more robust as the years go on.

Myself and others from Peninsula DSA are here to advocate for the following recommendations:

1. That SamTrans join the regional funding measure (SB 63);
2. That SamTrans preserve funding for inter-agency coordination;
3. That SamTrans pursue progressive funding solutions, rather than a regressive sales tax that penalizes the working class; and
4. That SamTrans conduct polling on potential progressive tax measures.

Thank you for your consideration of these important steps.

Kyla Valenti
Peninsula DSA
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(415) 610-0306

