



Partial image data sourced from Google Earth.

# Protecting SamTrans' North Base

## *There's More Riding on Transit Than People*

As the primary vehicle maintenance, operations, and dispatch facility for buses serving San Mateo County, North Base is the beating heart of SamTrans' day-to-day operations. North Base houses two-thirds of SamTrans' fleet, including buses and paratransit vehicles, facilities for maintenance and operator training, and rest areas for bus operators and staff.

It is also the planned future home for new infrastructure to fuel new zero emission buses. Access to North Base is critical for SamTrans to provide reliable and efficient transportation to San Mateo County communities, supporting the region's economy, workforce, and education infrastructure.

North Base is highly vulnerable to damage from sea level rise and severe storms, which cause flooding and erosion. Resulting impacts from damage to this facility would limit SamTrans' ability to provide vital transit services for the community, disrupting the flow of frontline workers, service providers, business employees, and students.

SamTrans conducted a feasibility study to assess the risks of sea level rise and its associated impacts, and to determine a feasible path forward to protecting North Base and its vital function as a hub for transit and employee operations.

**Did you know**  
that San Mateo County is  
more vulnerable to sea level  
rise than any other county  
in California?

Action must be taken to  
protect critical infrastructure  
such as North Base.



## Where is North Base?

North Base sits on an island in the San Francisco Bay, just north of San Francisco International Airport (SFO), where the Colma and San Bruno Creeks flow into the Bay. Being next to two creeks leaves North Base especially vulnerable to flooding and erosion.

North Base is accessible only by one road, known as the causeway, off SFO's North Access Road.

## More Than Buses

The San Francisco Bay Trail surrounds North Base Island, providing pedestrians and cyclists the chance to enjoy a wonderful view and get a glimpse of coastal wildlife.

North Base is also home to the San Mateo County Samaritan House's Safe Harbor Shelter, which provides emergency and short-term housing for over 350 people every year, making it one of the largest shelters in the county.

## Flood Protection Options

To protect North Base from flooding and erosion, SamTrans is studying two long-term concepts:

### Alternative 1 - Regional Protection

Regional Protection would provide protection to the North Base facility and has the potential to protect parts of South San Francisco, Colma, and San Bruno Creeks that are also at risk. Design concepts include:

- Protection along the shoreline including levees, seawalls, or solutions that, once installed, enhance and support the local ecosystem.
- Tide gates that help maintain drainage, control flooding, and reduce erosion by managing water movement.



### Alternative 2 - Perimeter Protection

Perimeter Protection would provide protection to North Base. Design concepts might include levees, seawalls, or other solutions, that once installed, enhance and support the local ecosystem.



SamTrans is currently evaluating both alternatives to understand the benefits, impacts, costs, and implementation timeline for each option.

To learn more, visit <https://www.samtrans.com/projects/NB-Flood-Protection>

