



SamTrans Community Advisory Committee

Meeting of January 28, 2026

Correspondence as of January 27, 2026

Subject

1. Samtrans rider killed after getting off bus

From: [Mike Swire](#)
To: [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#); [cacsecretary \[@samtrans.com\]](#); [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Samtrans rider killed after getting off bus
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Dear SamTrans Board, CAC and stakeholders,

Thank you for your work in making Samtrans so successful, especially for those in the County that cannot afford a car.

Sadly, I am writing to let you know that last Friday, Samtrans rider and RWC resident [Veronica Vasquez was killed shortly after stepping off the bus on El Camino in San Mateo](#). Veronica, in her 60s, was walking across El Camino to get to her house cleaning gig when a driver struck and killed her in the crosswalk. According to her family, Veronica had frequently told her family that this walk was extremely scary for her.

While every tragedy is important, I think that this story needs to be raised because it is important to the success of Samtrans. Veronica, like many Samtrans riders, did not drive or own a car her whole life. She tried driving once but found it challenging. Instead of endangering others on the road, she relied on Samtrans and other transit to get around safely. Thus, when she commuted to work she relied on the safe designs of our streets and the safe driving of others for her safety.

I hope that Samtrans will recognize Veronica's life and her support of Samtrans. More importantly, I hope that you will continue to work with the TA, C/CAG, Caltrans (ECR is a state highway), and municipalities in prioritizing safety for those who walk and bike (to get to/from transit) over the convenience of those who drive. If we had designed this intersection for safety (e.g., [protected left turn signal phases](#)) instead of speed (i.e., left turning drivers needing to squeeze through oncoming car traffic before crossing a busy crosswalk), perhaps Veronica would still be alive today. If people aren't safe when they get off the bus, they won't take the bus.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mike Swire
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