



SamTrans Board of Directors

Meeting March 4, 2026

Correspondence as of February 20, 2026

# Subject

1. RE: Suggestion for Temporary U.S. Flag Display and Commemorative Design on SamTrans Buses – *Staff response*
2. Letter of Appreciation from SamTrans and TA re: SamTrans and SMCTA Projects Funded Under the FY 2026 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill
3. Letter of Support from SamTrans and TA re: City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County's (C/CAG) application to the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program
4. Make Samtrans free
5. Route "HMB"
6. MARTA to launch Phase 1 of Rapid A-Line April 18; Updates from Caltrans
7. Key things to know about the SR-84 Intermodal Bus Facility Project

**From:** [SamTrans BOD Public Support Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#); [SamTrans BOD Public Support](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#); [SamTrans BOD Public Support](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Suggestion for Temporary U.S. Flag Display and Commemorative Design on SamTrans Buses  
**Date:** Thursday, February 12, 2026 4:24:10 PM

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To Orlando Nell,

Thank you for taking the time to send us your feedback. We appreciate hearing ideas from all across our community on how we could improve our service. While our focus is, of course, providing public transit, as you noted, there are other elements to our service that go beyond just providing a means of transportation. Our aim at SamTrans is to provide safe and reliable service, and ensuring riders—local and from abroad—feel welcomed aboard is certainly a big part of reaching that goal.

To that end, know that your comments and suggestions were forwarded to the proper parties for consideration. Thank you again for sending us your feedback.

Your SamTrans BOD Public Support Team

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**From:** Orlando Nell <[orlando@orlandonell.com](mailto:orlando@orlandonell.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 7, 2026 3:42 PM  
**To:** PRA <[pra@samtrans.com](mailto:pra@samtrans.com)>  
**Subject:** Suggestion for Temporary U.S. Flag Display and Commemorative Design on SamTrans Buses

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [orlando@orlandonell.com](mailto:orlando@orlandonell.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

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To SamTrans Customer Relations and Executive Leadership,

I am writing to suggest a simple, temporary, and nonpartisan way SamTrans could help recognize upcoming national and international events taking place here in the United States and in the Bay Area.

With the FIFA World Cup approaching, along with upcoming U.S. Olympic and Paralympic participation, SamTrans buses will be carrying both local riders and international visitors. During major global sporting events, it is customary for host countries to display national symbols as a sign of welcome and civic pride. A small U.S. flag decal placed on the front of SamTrans buses, even on a temporary basis for this month or for specific event periods, would be an appropriate and inclusive way to mark these moments.

I would also encourage SamTrans to consider a future commemorative design or wrap in anticipation of the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026. This could be handled similarly to other time-limited special liveries used across the country for anniversaries, milestones, or community celebrations. Such a design would not represent politics or ideology, but rather national history and shared civic identity.

Displaying the U.S. flag or a commemorative design during globally recognized events is not partisan. It is widely understood as cultural representation and hospitality, particularly in transit systems that serve as a first impression for visitors. Keeping this effort temporary and clearly tied to specific events would allow SamTrans to participate without altering long-term branding.

Thank you for your time and for considering this suggestion. I appreciate the role SamTrans plays in representing San Mateo County to the wider world.

Sincerely,  
Orlando Nell  
Woodside CA  
[orlando@orlandonell.com](mailto:orlando@orlandonell.com)

**Orlando Nell**



E: [orlando@orlandonell.com](mailto:orlando@orlandonell.com)  
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1250 SAN CARLOS AVENUE  
SAN CARLOS, CA 94070  
(650) 508-6200

February 13, 2026

The Honorable Kevin Mullin  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1404 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Mullin:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) and the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (SMCTA), I am writing to thank you for your support of numerous SamTrans and SMCTA projects funded under the FY 2026 Transportation, Housing and urban Development Appropriations Bill.

Funding for the SamTrans **Bus Stop Amenity Improvements Plan** will help us enhance the passenger experience systemwide by upgrading stops with shelters, seating, lighting, signage, and other key features, making transit more accessible, equitable, safe and attractive to current and future riders.

We also appreciate your leadership in advancing five projects SCMTA is proud to support financially, each addressing long-standing needs at major corridors, local streets and multimodal connections throughout the region.

**Broadway Grade Separation Project (Burlingame):** Funding will help remove a dangerous rail crossing in a busy area, improving safety, easing traffic, strengthening rail service, and supporting future transit growth.

**SR 84–US 101 Interchange Reimagined (Redwood City):** This project will upgrade an outdated, congested interchange to reduce delays, improve access to homes and jobs, expand travel options, and create a safer entrance to downtown.

**Huntington Avenue Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements (San Bruno):** Funding will help make walking and biking safer and more comfortable with new paths, better lighting, improved crossings, and stronger connections near schools and transit.

**US 101–Holly Street Interchange & Overcrossing (San Carlos):** The overcrossing will be redesigned as a multimodal facility to improve traffic flow, enhance safety, and strengthen east-west connections for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.

**Woodland Avenue Safety Improvements (East Palo Alto):** This project will deliver key upgrades in a high-need area, including repaved streets, new sidewalks, ADA improvements, stormwater upgrades, and safer roadways.

Collectively, these projects mark important progress toward a safer, more connected, and more resilient transportation system. Your leadership and advocacy play a critical role in advancing these priorities, and we appreciate your continued partnership as we move this work forward.

Please contact Government and Community Affairs Director, Jessica Epstein, at [EpsteinJ@samtrans.com](mailto:EpsteinJ@samtrans.com), if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "April Chan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

April Chan  
General Manager/CEO, Executive Director

CC: San Mateo County Transit Board of Directors  
San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1250 SAN CARLOS AVENUE  
SAN CARLOS, CA 94070  
(650) 508-6200

February 13, 2026

Secretary Sean Duffy  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) and the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (SMCTA), I'm writing in support of the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County's (C/CAG) application to the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program to fund the design and construction of the San Mateo County **Safety Applications For Every Traveler (SAFE-T)** project.

Designed based on an analysis of the Countywide High Injury Network (HIN), SAFE-T will develop and deploy a suite of technologies that will increase road safety and decrease emergency response times in our region. This will be accomplished by linking new tools at key intersections across the county to existing traffic signals to help prevent crashes and help emergency vehicles move through more quickly and safely—without creating unnecessary delays for other travelers.

SamTrans and SMCTA support the SAFE-T Project because it focuses on HIN intersections—where the most serious crashes happen and where many people walk, bike, and roll to reach transit, schools, jobs, and other key destinations. Project improvements will better protect these people while reducing crash-related delays that disrupt bus service and community travel.

The applications developed through this effort will create safer streets for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and emergency responders, and can provide a blueprint for use in other regions. We welcome USDOT's support to fund these safety improvements.

Thank you for your consideration of this project. Please contact Government and Community Affairs Director, Jessica Epstein, at [EpsteinJ@samtrans.com](mailto:EpsteinJ@samtrans.com) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "April Chan".

April Chan  
General Manager/CEO, Executive Director

CC: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors  
San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors

**From:** [Mike Swire](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board (@samtrans.com))  
**Subject:** Make Samtrans free  
**Date:** Saturday, February 14, 2026 8:19:39 AM

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Dear SamTrans Board Members,

Thank you for your service to the community by providing our excellent Samtrans service.

I wanted to share [this interesting NY Times article](#) about NYC's and other cities' experiments with free bus service. Most notably, they found that offering free service doesn't necessarily cost more. It also accelerates routes, decreases congestion, and improves safety.

Can we try this in SM County?

Tx,

Mike Swire  
San Mateo resident

**From:** [Max Mautner](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#); [April Chan](#)  
**Subject:** Route "HMB"  
**Date:** Monday, February 16, 2026 8:00:18 AM

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Hello Executive Director Chan & SamTrans Board,

I wanted to commend whoever came up with the new route names "CSM", "SKY", and "EPX".

I think they are much easier for all ages and abilities of riders to understand what the route serves--especially reaching marginal riders who do not understand the utility of SamTrans fixed routes today and might wonder what destinations they serve.

I would kindly offer up another route re-naming that I believe would pay huge dividends:

Renaming route 294 to "HMB" (Half Moon Bay).

My family, friends & I ride route 294 frequently. I am continually shocked in conversations with San Mateans that they are unfamiliar with the route & its existence as a transportation option to reach Half Moon Bay.

I think that this renaming would make sense even for residents of Half Moon Bay as well, even though the eastbound destination is San Mateo/Hillsdale Mall.

Given that route identifiers are posted on SamTrans bus stop polls they also serve as a form of marketing for SamTrans, so I expect this to be a low cost tool to boost ridership & community awareness of the utility that SamTrans provides to the community.

I hope my feedback can be acted upon--thank you so much!

- Max Mautner



**From:** Mass Transit <mass@news.southcommmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2026 8:02 AM  
**To:** Board (@samtrans.com)  
**Subject:** MARTA to launch Phase 1 of Rapid A-Line April 18; Updates from Caltrans

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MARTA to launch Phase 1 of Rapid A-Line April 18; Updates from Caltrans  
Mass Transit Daily ENL | [View online](#)



## **MARTA to launch Phase 1 of Rapid A-Line April 18**

The Rapid-A Line is the agency's first BRT line and is launching as part of the agency's NextGen Bus Network.

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## Caltrans relaunches mass transportation department, releases director's policy on transit

The department relaunch will also see Caltrans add a new deputy director of transit and rail programs.

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## **Hawai'i Department of Transportation adds three electric transit trams to Wiki Wiki Shuttle service at Honolulu airport**

The new trams will transport domestic passengers between gates and terminals and will augment the airport's free Wiki Wiki bus service.

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## **MnDOT adds more Greater Minnesota transit agencies to the Transit app**

The department is looking to make the app a hub for the state's transit needs with 15 more agencies coming by summer.

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## **City of Richmond takes next step to provide GRTC with a new transfer hub**

The Richmond City Council has voted to transfer the former Public Safety Building property to the city of Richmond's Economic Development Authority, allowing for the transfer hub to be built.

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## **LIT unveils largest leadership academy class in program history**

The program preps newcomers, mid-career professionals and executives in the making.

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**OR: Oregon transportation tax hike one step closer to landing on May ballot following key vote**

**WA: Washington bill aims to provide free or reduced fares to community college students**

**TX: Transportation leaders support 'Hail Mary' plan to save DART, signaling election recalls**

**OR: Amtrak offers first look at fancy new trains. Here's when they'll debut in the Northwest**

**FEATURED**



## **Transit Agencies Expand Safety and Security Efforts in 2025**

By Brandon Lewis

This year saw agencies updating rider policies, cracking down on fare evasion, using AI to help enhance safety and adding police to their systems.

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**From:** CCJPA - SR-84 Intermodal Bus Facility <connect@sr84busfacility.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 19, 2026 1:46 PM  
**To:** Board (@samtrans.com)  
**Subject:** Key things to know about the SR-84 Intermodal Bus Facility Project

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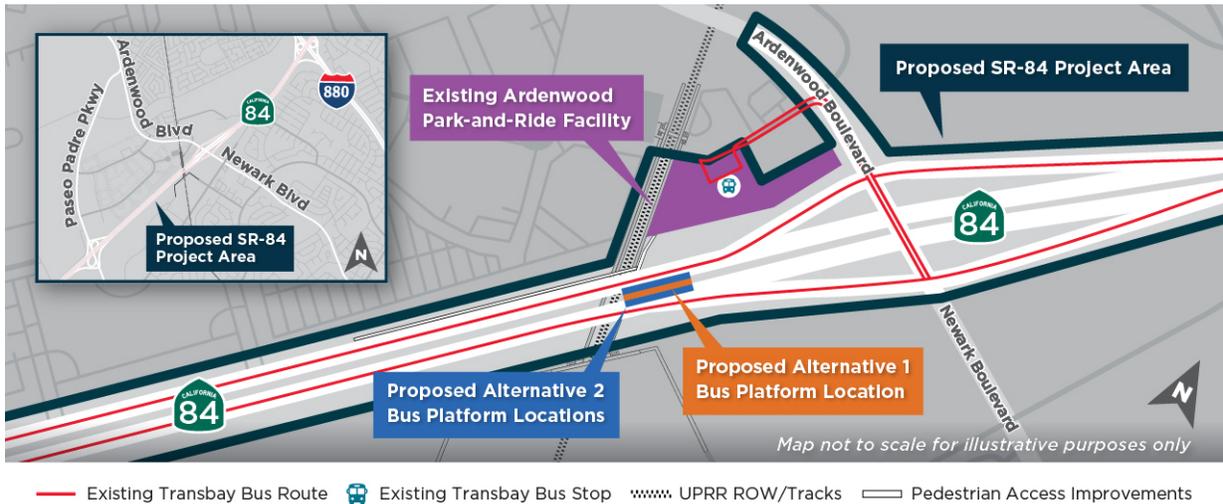
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# SR-84 BUS FACILITY

**The State Route 84 (SR-84) Intermodal Bus Facility Project** (Project) is proposed by Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) in partnership with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The bus facility would enhance Transbay bus and shuttle service connections from Alameda County to the Peninsula and build upon other regional transit efforts that promote and encourage multimodal access and connectivity.

The Project's proposed location is on SR-84 adjacent to the existing Ardenwood Park-and-Ride, on the border between Fremont and Newark.



The Project is being designed to:



Connect transit and private employer shuttle services with future improvements at the Ardenwood Park-and-Ride



Allow buses and shuttles to pick-up and drop-off passengers at an elevated highway level for improved operational efficiency



Create a more direct route at the Ardenwood Park-and-Ride entrance/exit to reduce congestion and travel time

The Project is exploring two alternatives for a new multimodal bus facility that would improve regional transit connections, support reliable bus operations, and enhance access for travelers. **Alternative 1** has a bus stop with a **center platform** in the median of SR-84 that would serve both eastbound and westbound buses. **Alternative 2** would construct two bus stops, each with **an outboard platform**, in the median of SR-84 to serve eastbound and westbound buses.

Visit the [SR-84 Intermodal Bus Facility website](#) to learn more about the alternatives.



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