



SamTrans Board of Directors

Meeting June 3, 2026

Correspondence as of May 29, 2026

# Subject

1. RE: Kids left alone on school bus routes — Bus driver leaves bus with kindergarteners alone inside — *Staff response*
2. Catch up on Mass Transit mag's trending news
3. Mass Transit Rail Update
4. MTA issues RFP for Metro-North Railroad railcar replacement; Updates from CUTRIC
5. Vector EHS Management Notification - Customer Service #1013782
6. Re: Kids left alone on school bus routes — Bus driver leaves bus with kindergarteners alone inside
7. Request for Agenda Item—Re: Kids left alone on school bus routes — Bus driver leaves bus with kindergarteners alone inside

**From:** [Jan Alexis Salandanan](mailto:Jan.Alexis.Salandanan)  
**To:** [walker@wkwells.com](mailto:walker@wkwells.com); [Chuang, Marie \[mchuaneg@hillsborough.net\]](mailto:Chuang.Marie@mchuaneg@hillsborough.net); [Canepa, David \[dcanepa@smcgov.org\]](mailto:Canepa.David@dcanepa@smcgov.org); [Gee, Jeff \[jgee@redwoodcity.org\]](mailto:Gee.Jeff[jgee@redwoodcity.org); [SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org](mailto:SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org); [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board (@samtrans.com)  
**Cc:** [Jessica Epstein](mailto:Jessica.Epstein); [Ana Vasudeo](mailto:Ana.Vasudeo); [Emily Beach](mailto:Emily.Beach); [Lisa Peabody](mailto:Lisa.Peabody)  
**Subject:** RE: Kids left alone on school bus routes — Bus driver leaves bus with kindergarteners alone inside  
**Date:** Friday, May 22, 2026 3:28:42 PM

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To Walker Wells,

Good afternoon. Thank you again for your patience while we reviewed this issue.

Our Bus Operations team has met with the operator about these concerns, and our operator will make an effort to use the facilities before/after his schedule to avoid having to do so in the middle of a route. However, please understand that this is something we cannot always guarantee given Cal/OSHA regulations for bus operators; while the Route 85 schedule itself is short, it does take our operator nearly 2 hours to make the trip to Portola Valley in order to start the route.

As mentioned in our initial response to the school, our buses are public routes and do not only serve students. As such, the regulations on SamTrans buses differ from school buses. Please rest assured, though, that SamTrans operators take several steps to safely secure the bus when they leave the vehicle, such as while they are on their legal break.

SamTrans staff will continue to monitor the route and work with the school. Thank you for taking the time to reach out and work with us to ensure our service remains safe and reliable for our riders.

Your SamTrans BOD Public Support Team

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**From:** M. Walker Wells <[walker@wkwells.com](mailto:walker@wkwells.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2026 6:44:53 PM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik  
**To:** April Chan <[chana@samtrans.com](mailto:chana@samtrans.com)>  
**Cc:** Chuang, Marie [mchuaneg@hillsborough.net] <[MChuang@hillsborough.net](mailto:MChuang@hillsborough.net)>; Canepa, David [dcanepa@smcgov.org] <[dcanepa@smcgov.org](mailto:dcanepa@smcgov.org)>; Gee, Jeff [jgee@redwoodcity.org] <[jgee@redwoodcity.org](mailto:jgee@redwoodcity.org)>; [SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org](mailto:SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org) <[SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org](mailto:SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org)>; Board (@samtrans.com) <[Board@samtrans.com](mailto:Board@samtrans.com)>; Jessica Epstein <[epsteinj@samtrans.com](mailto:epsteinj@samtrans.com)>; Ana Vasudeo <[VasudeoA@samtrans.com](mailto:VasudeoA@samtrans.com)>; Emily Beach <[BeachE@samtrans.com](mailto:BeachE@samtrans.com)>; Lisa Peabody <[PeabodyL@samtrans.com](mailto:PeabodyL@samtrans.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Kids left alone on school bus routes — Bus driver leaves bus with kindergarteners alone inside

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Really appreciate the response!

Sent from my iPhone  
(650) 384-5229

On Mon, May 18, 2026 at 5:12 PM April Chan <[chana@samtrans.com](mailto:chana@samtrans.com)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Walker,

We have received your email, and it was forwarded to Customer Service for review and investigation. You should be getting a response soon.

Regards,  
April Chan

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**From:** M. Walker Wells <[walker@wkwells.com](mailto:walker@wkwells.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2026 3:26 PM

**To:** Chuang, Marie [[mchuang@hillsborough.net](mailto:mchuang@hillsborough.net)] <[MChuang@hillsborough.net](mailto:MChuang@hillsborough.net)>; Canepa, David [[dcanepa@smcgov.org](mailto:dcanepa@smcgov.org)] <[dcanepa@smcgov.org](mailto:dcanepa@smcgov.org)>; Gee, Jeff [[jgee@redwoodcity.org](mailto:jgee@redwoodcity.org)] <[jgee@redwoodcity.org](mailto:jgee@redwoodcity.org)>; [SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org](mailto:SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org) <[SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org](mailto:SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org)>; Board (@[samtrans.com](mailto:samtrans.com)) <[Board@samtrans.com](mailto:Board@samtrans.com)>

**Cc:** April Chan <[ChanA@samtrans.com](mailto:ChanA@samtrans.com)>; Casey Fromson <[fromsonc@caltrain.com](mailto:fromsonc@caltrain.com)>; Peter Skinner <[SkinnerP@samtrans.com](mailto:SkinnerP@samtrans.com)>; Jessica Epstein <[epsteinj@samtrans.com](mailto:epsteinj@samtrans.com)>; Jason Baker <[bakerj@caltrain.com](mailto:bakerj@caltrain.com)>; Devon Ryan <[ryand@caltrain.com](mailto:ryand@caltrain.com)>; Tasha Bartholomew <[bartholomewt@samtrans.com](mailto:bartholomewt@samtrans.com)>; Dan Lieberman <[liebermand@samtrans.com](mailto:liebermand@samtrans.com)>; Kevin Yin <[yink@samtrans.com](mailto:yink@samtrans.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Kids left alone on school bus routes — Bus driver leaves bus with kindergarteners alone inside

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Surely, someone cares enough to respond?

Thanks, Walker

Sent from my iPhone  
(650) 384-5229

On Thu, May 14, 2026 at 3:23 PM M. Walker Wells <[walker@wkwells.com](mailto:walker@wkwells.com)> wrote:

Ms. Epstein—it sounds like someone on your team responded to the principal. Could you take point on consulting the right people within samTrans to avoid leaving Kindergartners (and all kids) alone as part of the program?

Thanks! Walker

On Thu, May 14, 2026 at 3:09 PM M. Walker Wells <[walker@wkwells.com](mailto:walker@wkwells.com)> wrote:

Board of Directors & Staff,

Sorry for including you all, but I am not sure who to reach out to. The current response from samTrans is "Contact Customer Service." Below is an email thread between the Portola Valley Elementary Principal, myself, and a samTrans representative.

Last week, I rode the bus with my Kindergartener son and I discovered that it makes a stop at Little People's Park (Town Center) in Portola Valley so the bus driver can take a bathroom break.

During these five minutes, the bus driver is not in the bus and the kids are left unattended with the door open. My son indicated that this is normal, but I am not sure. The route is very short and is exclusively used by elementary and middle school kids.

**Is it possible to institute a policy that requires the driver to take a break at a different time?**

Thank you,

Walker Wells  
(650) 384-5229

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lynette Hovland <[lhovland@pvsd.net](mailto:lhovland@pvsd.net)>

Date: Thu, May 14, 2026 at 9:14 AM

Subject: Re: San Mateo County Bus Route

To: M. Walker Wells <[walker@kwells.com](mailto:walker@kwells.com)>

Dear Walker,

I forwarded your concern to SamTrans and received this response.

Route 85 is a school-oriented route but it is still a public route which means anyone can also take this bus. Also, the operator is not responsible for supervising students but to stay focused on the road and drive safely.

Please ask the parent to call SamTrans Customer Service at 1-800-660-4287 if there are additional questions or concerns.

Lynette

On Thu, May 14, 2026 at 8:03 AM M. Walker Wells <[walker@kwells.com](mailto:walker@kwells.com)> wrote:

Hi Lynette, hope you're doing well!

I meant to connect with you last week, but I wanted to raise a concern regarding the bus route from Alice's restaurant to Corte Madera to Ormondale.

I rode it with Max last week and I discovered that it makes a stop at Little People's Park so the bus driver can take a bathroom break.

Max indicated that this is normal, but I am not sure. During this five minutes, the bus driver is not in the bus and the kids are left unattended.

At least this was the case when I was on the bus last week.

Is it possible to get in contact with the right person at Samtrans to request that the driver take a break at a different time?

All the best, Walker

Sent from my iPhone  
(650) 384-5229

--

Ms. Lynette Hovland, MPA  
Principal/District Title IX Coordinator

Portola Valley School District  
Ormondale School  
[200 Shawnee Pass](#)  
[Portola Valley, CA 94028](#)  
650-851-1777 ext. 2650

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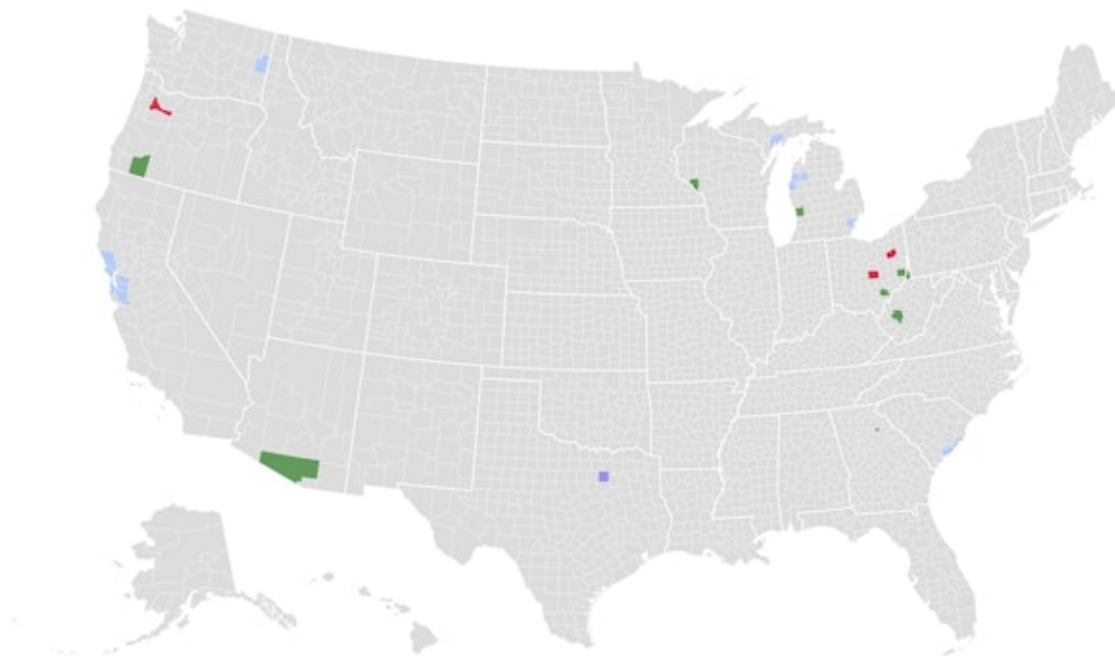
**From:** Mass Transit <mass@news.southcommmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 25, 2026 8:01 AM  
**To:** Board (@samtrans.com)  
**Subject:** Catch up on Mass Transit mag's trending news

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## Mass Transit magazine's 2026 Transit Ballot Measure Tracker

By Noah Kolenda

Updated 5/22: Stay up to date on all the places transit will be on the ballot.

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## **Attend America's Premier High-Speed Rail Event and Lobby Day, May 12-14**

From US High Speed Rail Association

Join us in Washington, D.C., for three days of networking, lively discussions and social events with trailblazers who are making it happen. Industry leaders are taking bold, creative steps to bring major high-speed rail projects to fruition. HSR 2026 will explore these fresh approaches with project leaders and global experts on the front lines of American high-speed rail delivery.

[Register here for HSR2026. Join us!](#)



## **An insider look on how a rural Minnesota transit agency brought its scheduling and routing solution into the 21st century**

By Megan Perrero

Arrowhead Transit's new rider-facing app, coupled with its modernized transit management and schedule software, hopes to create greater flexibility for additional demographics to use transit.

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## The public transit industry's playbook for the next surface transportation reauthorization bill

By Brandon Lewis

Mass Transit magazine created this playbook based on the recommendations adopted by the American Public Transportation Association in February 2026.

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## Votes are in: Who stays and who goes within DART's service network

By Noah Kolenda

The vote suspends DART services within Highland Park city limits on May 14 while Addison and University Park opted to stay.

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## MDOT MTA completes rail installation on Maryland Purple Line

By Brandon Lewis

The project now will focus on completing construction by the end of 2026.

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## How Tulsa's BRT Is Transforming Public Transit

By Megan Perrero

MetroLink Tulsa's Aero BRT corridor has exceeded expectations, with excitement growing as the second route comes to fruition.

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**NY: Long Island Rail Road strike ends with deal between unions, MTA**

**NJ: NJ Transit has put World Cup mass transit tickets on sale. Here's how fast they are selling.**

**CA: High stakes, lower bar: SMART needs just a simple majority on Measure B to lock in crucial tax revenue for 30 more years**

**FL: Brightline says 'substantial doubt' the company will continue as is**

## FEATURED



### **Electric and Hydrogen Buses: The State of Alternative Fuel Transit in 2026**

By Megan Perrero

From facility modernizations and street modifications to fleet expansions and policy changes, here are the need-to-know trends affecting the U.S. bus market.

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### **Director of Maintenance**

From South Central Transit Authority (SCTA)



### **Assistant Director of Maintenance**

From Duluth Transit Authority (DTA)



### **Assistant Superintendent of Rolling Stock and Shops Maintenance**

From Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART)



### **Foreperson**

From Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority



### **Transportation Planner**

From Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority



## Deputy Director of Transportation Safety

From City of Santa Rosa

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Mass Transit  
EndeavorB2B  
30 Burton Hills Blvd., Suite 185  
Nashville, TN 37215

**From:** Mass Transit <mass@mail.southcommmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026 6:06 AM  
**To:** Board (@samtrans.com)  
**Subject:** Mass Transit Rail Update

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Mass Transit Rail Update  
Mass Transit Rail Update - Tuesday ENL | [View online](#)

# MASS TRANSIT Rail Update



MAY 26, 2026



**UTA to kick off summer of state of good repair upgrades**

The agency is working to complete projects from an S-Line extension to multiple grade crossing improvements.

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### STM begins mass excavation for Blue Line extension project

When complete, the project will add five new stations east of Saint-Michel station, bringing the Blue Line into Anjou, Montréal.

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### Mass Transit to be Presenting Sponsor of the Rail Transit Seminar

From Wheel Rail Seminars

WRI 2026 Rail Transit Conference is devoted to wheel/rail and subway operations. The conference will be held in Boston, MA . Sample topics to include: U.S. & European rail grinding and milling programs, Wheel/Rail profiles before implementation, predictive management of ground-borne vibration, bringing a legacy system back into a state of good repair, a review of low-impact frog designs, and more.

[Register](#)



## REM's Anse-à-l'Orme branch begins passenger service

By Brandon Lewis

The 14-kilometer branch offers riders four new stations in the cities of Pointe-Claire, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue and Kirkland in Montreal.

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## Built for Transit. Trusted for the Long Haul. Available on Awarded Contracts.

From Mohawk Lifts (LiftPoint USA)

Mass transit fleets trust Mohawk Lifts for unmatched safety, strength, and uptime. Open, unobstructed access streamlines inspections and maintenance, while patented hydraulic safety systems deliver continuous protection at every height. Built for heavy-duty use, Mohawk lifts keep buses and fleet vehicles moving—safely, reliably, and efficiently.

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## First Airo trainset arrives in Seattle for final testing in Pacific Northwest

The trainset is the first of eight to be delivered for the Cascades line.

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## Phase 1 of L.A. Metro D Line Subway Extension begins passenger service

By Brandon Lewis

Riders can now go from Downtown Los Angeles to Beverly Hills in 20 minutes.

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## City of Edmonton, Ledcor complete bridge girder installation for Capital Line South extension project

The installation allows crews to proceed with formwork and pouring of the top bridge deck.

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## SacRT selects Clever Devices to implement real-time train information and passenger communications system across light-rail network

Clever Devices' technology currently supports key components of SacRT's fixed-route bus operations.

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## Surrey Langley SkyTrain extension stations see construction take shape

Major foundation construction is complete for six stations, with station structures going up at two locations.

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Nashville, TN 37215

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**From:** Mass Transit <mass@news.southcommmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026 8:02 AM  
**To:** Board (@samtrans.com)  
**Subject:** MTA issues RFP for Metro-North Railroad railcar replacement; Updates from CUTRIC

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**MASS TRANSIT  
DAILY**



**MAY 26, 2026**



## **MTA issues RFP for Metro-North Railroad railcar replacement**

The RFP is seeking more than 250 new cars to improve service reliability and replace aging stock.

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### **CUTRIC welcomes new Buy Canadian policy guidelines for Canada Public Transit Fund**

The new guidelines strengthen the link between public transit investment and Canadian economic growth by prioritizing Canadian suppliers and Canadian content in federally supported transit projects.

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### **Multi-Layer Protection Designed to Stop Graffiti**

From Graffiti Shield, Inc.

Glass Shield's Multi-Layer Film protects glass surfaces from vandalism, scratching, and etching. Its customizable layering system allows damaged layers to be removed and replaced quickly, restoring a clean surface without costly glass replacement. Designed for high-traffic environments, Glass Shield delivers durable protection with long-term cost savings.

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## Connect Bay Area Campaign launches new study to chart new reliability path for area transit

Combined with a possible funding measure, the review seeks to plot out how the Bay Area agencies can continue operations without major cuts.

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## Don't miss the AREMA 2026 Annual Conference & Expo – Register Today

From AREMA

Expand your industry knowledge and build valuable connections at the AREMA 2026 Annual Conference & Expo, September 13–16 in Kansas City, MO. #AREMA2026 delivers cutting-edge education, expert insights, and unmatched networking. Register now and stand out—secure your booth and sponsorship before they're gone!

[Save your seat and register today](#)

**CONDUENT**



## Conduent to sell public transit business to Modaxo

The companies expect the transaction to close before the end of 2026.

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### **ECARX partners with May Mobility to expand AV capabilities**

The partnership leverages ECARX's intelligent driving capacity in May's future autonomous fleet.

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### **Tolar Manufacturing installs 12 custom bus shelters, UTC-branded totem signs in Jacksonville**

The shelters and totems are part of JTA's program, the Ultimate Urban Circulator to introduce AVs into JTA's transportation system.

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## **FEATURED**



### **TTC Line 5 Eglinton Crosstown Opens After 15 Years**

By Noah Kolenda

Through uncontrollable delays and unique challenges, the consortium leaned on a “one team mentality” to deliver the generational megaproject over nearly 15 years.

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### **Assistant Director of Maintenance**

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Nashville, TN 37215

**From:** [Vector EHS Management](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](mailto:Board (@samtrans.com))  
**Subject:** Vector EHS Management Notification - Customer Service #1013782  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026 11:37:07 AM

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You are being notified of the following Customer Service #1013782

System ID: 1013782

Date Received: 5/24/2026

Time:

Region: SamTrans

Division: SamTrans

Facility: Central

Section (City/Station):

Detailed Location:

Run Number or Train Number:

Bus #:

Categories: Other - Complaint

Potential Safety Issue: No

Occurrence Description / Comments: To the Boards of Directors of SamTrans and Caltrain: San Mateo County taxpayers deserve accountability, discipline and transparency from the transit agencies they fund. SamTrans and Caltrain continue to face recurring structural deficits while repeatedly returning to taxpayers for additional revenue. At some point, public agencies must demonstrate they can live within their means before asking residents "already burdened by high housing costs, sales taxes, parcel taxes and rising utility bills" to provide more financial support. The agencies should immediately commission comprehensive independent financial and performance audits to evaluate operational efficiency, administrative overhead, capital spending priorities and return on taxpayer investment. These audits should identify where costs can be reduced, services streamlined and management practices improved before any discussion of additional taxes or subsidies proceeds further. This call for stronger oversight is especially relevant given that public officials, including San Mateo County Supervisor David Canepa, are now advocating aggressive financial and performance audits in other county offices. If auditing and organizational reform are truly core governing principles, taxpayers should reasonably ask why the same urgency was not more visible at SamTrans and Caltrain, where long-term financial challenges have existed for years under the oversight of current board members. Private-sector organizations facing sustained financial deficits do not survive indefinitely by repeatedly asking customers and investors for rescue funding without implementing serious internal reforms. They reduce expenses, reassess priorities, improve productivity and justify expenditures based on measurable value and return on investment. Public agencies should be held to similar standards of stewardship. Taxpayers also deserve answers about discretionary spending decisions during a period of persistent financial strain. For example, what measurable public benefit or return on investment will be achieved through expenditures related to 50th anniversary celebrations and promotional activities while agencies simultaneously warned of fiscal crises and possible service reductions? Transit service is important. Many residents depend on it. But public trust erodes when agencies appear more focused on expanding subsidies than demonstrating operational restraint and financial discipline. Before asking taxpayers for more, SamTrans and Caltrain

should first prove they have done everything possible to control costs, improve efficiency and responsibly manage the substantial public resources they already receive. Sincerely, Sam Rider

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**From:** [M. Walker Wells](#)  
**To:** [Jan Alexis Salandanan](#)  
**Cc:** [Chuang, Marie \[mchuang@hillsborough.net\]](#); [Canepa, David \[dcanepa@smcgov.org\]](#); [Gee, Jeff \[jgee@redwoodcity.org\]](#); [SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org](#); [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#); [Jessica Epstein](#); [Ana Vasudeo](#); [Emily Beach](#); [Lisa Peabody](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Kids left alone on school bus routes — Bus driver leaves bus with kindergarteners alone inside  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026 1:17:24 PM

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Public Support team, thank you for your response—While I appreciate your response, is there someone on the SamTrans BOD or leadership side that would be interested in contacting me to gather context? I have additional questions and I think you all have missing context.

As of right now, we're allowing adult Cal/OSHA regulations to **take precedence over a bus full of minors with the door open**, without exploring some common sense options outside of "we've asked the operator to do their best."

If someone is interested, please give me a call at (650) 384-5220 or reply all to this email.

Thanks! Walker

Town of Woodside Circulation Committee Member & Ormondale Parent

On Fri, May 22, 2026 at 3:28 PM Jan Alexis Salandanan <[SalandananJ@samtrans.com](mailto:SalandananJ@samtrans.com)> wrote:

To Walker Wells,

Good afternoon. Thank you again for your patience while we reviewed this issue.

Our Bus Operations team has met with the operator about these concerns, and our operator will make an effort to use the facilities before/after his schedule to avoid having to do so in the middle of a route. However, please understand that this is something we cannot always guarantee given Cal/OSHA regulations for bus operators; while the Route 85 schedule itself is short, it does take our operator nearly 2 hours to make the trip to Portola Valley in order to start the route.

As mentioned in our initial response to the school, our buses are public routes and do not only serve students. As such, the regulations on SamTrans buses differ from school buses. Please rest assured, though, that SamTrans operators take several steps to safely secure the bus when they leave the vehicle, such as while they are on their legal break.

SamTrans staff will continue to monitor the route and work with the school. Thank you for taking the time to reach out and work with us to ensure our service remains safe and reliable for our riders.

Your SamTrans BOD Public Support Team

---

**From:** M. Walker Wells <[walker@wkwells.com](mailto:walker@wkwells.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2026 6:44:53 PM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik  
**To:** April Chan <[chana@samtrans.com](mailto:chana@samtrans.com)>  
**Cc:** Chuang, Marie [[mchuang@hillsborough.net](mailto:mchuang@hillsborough.net)] <[MChuang@hillsborough.net](mailto:MChuang@hillsborough.net)>; Canepa, David [[dcanepa@smcgov.org](mailto:dcanepa@smcgov.org)] <[dcanepa@smcgov.org](mailto:dcanepa@smcgov.org)>; Gee, Jeff [[jgee@redwoodcity.org](mailto:jgee@redwoodcity.org)] <[jgee@redwoodcity.org](mailto:jgee@redwoodcity.org)>; [SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org](mailto:SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org) <[SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org](mailto:SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org)>; Board (@[samtrans.com](mailto:samtrans.com)) <[Board@samtrans.com](mailto:Board@samtrans.com)>; Jessica Epstein <[epsteinj@samtrans.com](mailto:epsteinj@samtrans.com)>; Ana Vasudeo <[VasudeoA@samtrans.com](mailto:VasudeoA@samtrans.com)>; Emily Beach <[BeachE@samtrans.com](mailto:BeachE@samtrans.com)>; Lisa Peabody <[PeabodyL@samtrans.com](mailto:PeabodyL@samtrans.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Kids left alone on school bus routes — Bus driver leaves bus with kindergarteners alone inside

You don't often get email from [walker@wkwells.com](mailto:walker@wkwells.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**ATTENTION:** This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders.

Really appreciate the response!

Sent from my iPhone  
(650) 384-5229

On Mon, May 18, 2026 at 5:12 PM April Chan <[chana@samtrans.com](mailto:chana@samtrans.com)> wrote:

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We have received your email, and it was forwarded to Customer Service for review and investigation. You should be getting a response soon.

Regards,

April Chan

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---

**From:** M. Walker Wells <[walker@kwells.com](mailto:walker@kwells.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2026 3:26 PM

**To:** Chuang, Marie [[mchuang@hillsborough.net](mailto:mchuang@hillsborough.net)] <[MChuang@hillsborough.net](mailto:MChuang@hillsborough.net)>; Canepa, David [[dcanepa@smcgov.org](mailto:dcanepa@smcgov.org)] <[dcanepa@smcgov.org](mailto:dcanepa@smcgov.org)>; Gee, Jeff [[jgee@redwoodcity.org](mailto:jgee@redwoodcity.org)] <[jgee@redwoodcity.org](mailto:jgee@redwoodcity.org)>; [SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org](mailto:SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org) <[SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org](mailto:SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org)>; Board (@[samtrans.com](mailto:samtrans.com)) <[Board@samtrans.com](mailto:Board@samtrans.com)>

**Cc:** April Chan <[ChanA@samtrans.com](mailto:ChanA@samtrans.com)>; Casey Fromson <[fromsonc@caltrain.com](mailto:fromsonc@caltrain.com)>; Peter Skinner <[SkinnerP@samtrans.com](mailto:SkinnerP@samtrans.com)>; Jessica Epstein <[epsteinj@samtrans.com](mailto:epsteinj@samtrans.com)>; Jason Baker <[bakerj@caltrain.com](mailto:bakerj@caltrain.com)>; Devon Ryan <[ryand@caltrain.com](mailto:ryand@caltrain.com)>; Tasha Bartholomew <[bartholomewt@samtrans.com](mailto:bartholomewt@samtrans.com)>; Dan Lieberman <[liebermand@samtrans.com](mailto:liebermand@samtrans.com)>; Kevin Yin <[yink@samtrans.com](mailto:yink@samtrans.com)>

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Surely, someone cares enough to respond?

Thanks, Walker

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Thanks! Walker

On Thu, May 14, 2026 at 3:09 PM M. Walker Wells <[walker@wkwells.com](mailto:walker@wkwells.com)> wrote:

Board of Directors & Staff,

Sorry for including you all, but I am not sure who to reach out to. The current response from samTrans is "Contact Customer Service." Below is an email thread between the Portola Valley Elementary Principal, myself, and a samTrans representative.

Last week, I rode the bus with my Kindergartener son and I discovered that it makes a stop at Little People's Park (Town Center) in Portola Valley so the bus driver can take a bathroom break.

During these five minutes, the bus driver is not in the bus and the kids are left unattended with the door open. My son indicated that this is normal, but I am not sure. The route is very short and is exclusively used by elementary and middle school kids.

**Is it possible to institute a policy that requires the driver to take a break at a different time?**

Thank you,

Walker Wells

(650) 384-5229

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lynette Hovland <[lhovland@pvsd.net](mailto:lhovland@pvsd.net)>

Date: Thu, May 14, 2026 at 9:14 AM

Subject: Re: San Mateo County Bus Route

To: M. Walker Wells <[walker@wkwells.com](mailto:walker@wkwells.com)>

Dear Walker,

I forwarded your concern to SamTrans and received this response.

Route 85 is a school-oriented route but it is still a public route which means anyone can also take this bus. Also, the operator is not responsible for supervising students but to stay focused on the road and drive safely.

Please ask the parent to call SamTrans Customer Service at 1-800-660-4287 if there are additional questions or concerns.

Lynette

On Thu, May 14, 2026 at 8:03 AM M. Walker Wells <[walker@wkwells.com](mailto:walker@wkwells.com)> wrote:

Hi Lynette, hope you're doing well!

I meant to connect with you last week, but I wanted to raise a concern regarding the bus route from Alice's restaurant to Corte Madera to Ormondale.

I rode it with Max last week and I discovered that it makes a stop at Little People's Park so the bus driver can take a bathroom break.

Max indicated that this is normal, but I am not sure. During this five minutes, the bus driver is not in the bus and the kids are left unattended.

At least this was the case when I was on the bus last week.

Is it possible to get in contact with the right person at Samtrans to request that the driver take a break at a different time?

All the best, Walker

Sent from my iPhone  
(650) 384-5229

--

Ms. Lynette Hovland, MPA  
Principal/District Title IX Coordinator

Portola Valley School District

Ormondale School

[200 Shawnee Pass](#)

[Portola Valley, CA 94028](#)

650-851-1777 ext. 2650

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**From:** [M. Walker Wells](#)  
**To:** [Jan Alexis Salandanan](#)  
**Cc:** [Chuang, Marie \[mchuang@hillsborough.net\]](#); [Canepa, David \[dcanepa@smcgov.org\]](#); [Gee, Jeff \[jgee@redwoodcity.org\]](#); [SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org](#); [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#); [Jessica Epstein](#); [Ana Vasudeo](#); [Emily Beach](#); [Lisa Peabody](#)  
**Subject:** Request for Agenda Item—Re: Kids left alone on school bus routes — Bus driver leaves bus with kindergarteners alone inside  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026 1:30:53 PM

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Would it be possible to have an agenda item added to the next 6/3 meeting to discuss protocols related to minors being left alone on buses?

On Tue, May 26, 2026 at 1:17 PM M. Walker Wells <[walker@wkwells.com](mailto:walker@wkwells.com)> wrote:

Public Support team, thank you for your response—While I appreciate your response, is there someone on the SamTrans BOD or leadership side that would be interested in contacting me to gather context? I have additional questions and I think you all have missing context.

As of right now, we're allowing adult Cal/OSHA regulations to **take precedence over a bus full of minors with the door open**, without exploring some common sense options outside of "we've asked the operator to do their best."

If someone is interested, please give me a call at (650) 384-5220 or reply all to this email.

Thanks! Walker

Town of Woodside Circulation Committee Member & Ormondale Parent

On Fri, May 22, 2026 at 3:28 PM Jan Alexis Salandanan <[SalandananJ@samtrans.com](mailto:SalandananJ@samtrans.com)> wrote:

To Walker Wells,

Good afternoon. Thank you again for your patience while we reviewed this issue.

Our Bus Operations team has met with the operator about these concerns, and our operator will make an effort to use the facilities before/after his schedule to avoid having to do so in the middle of a route. However, please understand that this is something we cannot always guarantee given Cal/OSHA regulations for bus operators; while the Route 85 schedule itself is short, it does take our operator nearly 2 hours to make the trip to Portola Valley in order to start the route.

As mentioned in our initial response to the school, our buses are public routes and do not only serve students. As such, the regulations on SamTrans buses differ from school buses. Please rest assured, though, that SamTrans operators take several steps to safely

secure the bus when they leave the vehicle, such as while they are on their legal break.

SamTrans staff will continue to monitor the route and work with the school. Thank you for taking the time to reach out and work with us to ensure our service remains safe and reliable for our riders.

Your SamTrans BOD Public Support Team

---

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**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2026 6:44:53 PM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik  
**To:** April Chan <[chana@samtrans.com](mailto:chana@samtrans.com)>  
**Cc:** Chuang, Marie [[mchuang@hillsborough.net](mailto:mchuang@hillsborough.net)] <[MChuang@hillsborough.net](mailto:MChuang@hillsborough.net)>; Canepa, David [[dcanepa@smcgov.org](mailto:dcanepa@smcgov.org)] <[dcanepa@smcgov.org](mailto:dcanepa@smcgov.org)>; Gee, Jeff [[jgee@redwoodcity.org](mailto:jgee@redwoodcity.org)] <[jgee@redwoodcity.org](mailto:jgee@redwoodcity.org)>; [SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org](mailto:SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org) <[SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org](mailto:SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org)>; Board (@[samtrans.com](mailto:samtrans.com)) <[Board@samtrans.com](mailto:Board@samtrans.com)>; Jessica Epstein <[epsteinj@samtrans.com](mailto:epsteinj@samtrans.com)>; Ana Vasudeo <[VasudeoA@samtrans.com](mailto:VasudeoA@samtrans.com)>; Emily Beach <[BeachE@samtrans.com](mailto:BeachE@samtrans.com)>; Lisa Peabody <[PeabodyL@samtrans.com](mailto:PeabodyL@samtrans.com)>  
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**To:** Chuang, Marie [[mchuang@hillsborough.net](mailto:mchuang@hillsborough.net)] <[MChuang@hillsborough.net](mailto:MChuang@hillsborough.net)>;

Canepa, David [[dcanepa@smcgov.org](mailto:dcanepa@smcgov.org)] <[dcanepa@smcgov.org](mailto:dcanepa@smcgov.org)>; Gee, Jeff

[[jgee@redwoodcity.org](mailto:jgee@redwoodcity.org)] <[jgee@redwoodcity.org](mailto:jgee@redwoodcity.org)>; [SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org](mailto:SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org)

<[SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org](mailto:SMCSupSpeier@smcgov.org)>; Board (@[samtrans.com](mailto:samtrans.com)) <[Board@samtrans.com](mailto:Board@samtrans.com)>

**Cc:** April Chan <[ChanA@samtrans.com](mailto:ChanA@samtrans.com)>; Casey Fromson <[fromsonc@caltrain.com](mailto:fromsonc@caltrain.com)>;

Peter Skinner <[SkinnerP@samtrans.com](mailto:SkinnerP@samtrans.com)>; Jessica Epstein <[epsteinj@samtrans.com](mailto:epsteinj@samtrans.com)>;

Jason Baker <[bakerj@caltrain.com](mailto:bakerj@caltrain.com)>; Devon Ryan <[ryand@caltrain.com](mailto:ryand@caltrain.com)>; Tasha

Bartholomew <[bartholomewt@samtrans.com](mailto:bartholomewt@samtrans.com)>; Dan Lieberman

<[liebermand@samtrans.com](mailto:liebermand@samtrans.com)>; Kevin Yin <[yink@samtrans.com](mailto:yink@samtrans.com)>

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