

TA

CORRESPONDENCE

as of 8-14-2020



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August 7, 2020

The Honorable Laura Friedman
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 288 (Wiener) – Support

Dear Chair Friedman and Members of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA), I write to urge the Legislature to **support SB288 (Wiener)**. SB 288 will accelerate common-sense and sustainable transportation projects. Specifically, SB 288 makes it easier to build pedestrian safety projects, bicycle lanes and facilities, new bus, bus rapid transit and light rail projects.

These types of transportation projects are regularly delayed by appeals and litigation, which can take anywhere from six months to four years to resolve. SB 288 creates more certainty for these critical and time-sensitive projects, reducing costs and delays.

In addition, SB 288 ensures a more equitable recovery from COVID-19. As our cities begin to reopen, we are seeing increased congestion on our roads, highways and local streets. Failure to stem increased congestion rates, will continue to harm the state's vulnerable populations who already shoulder a disproportionate burden of the state's air pollution and have higher rates of underlying health conditions that make COVID-19 especially dangerous.

SB 288 protects jobs. There are over 1.3 million people in California employed in the transportation sector. Transit agencies and cities are often the largest employers in their counties, and those jobs are at risk as revenue drops. This bill gets projects moving and keeps people employed.

Finally, SB 288 can help California achieve its ambitious climate goals. Over 40 percent of California's greenhouse gas emissions come from the transportation sector. Expanding high-quality, safe, and affordable transportation options is critical to achieving these goals.

For these reasons, we encourage the legislature to adopt SB 288 and make sustainable transportation a central part of California's full recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Honorable Laura Friedman
August 7, 2020
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Please contact Casey Fromson, Director of Government and Community Affairs, at (650) 288-7625 or fromsonc@samtrans.com if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Jim Harnett
Executive Director

Cc: Assembly Member Christina Garcia
Assembly Member Heath Flora
Assembly Member Monique Limón
Assembly Member Talamantes Eggman
Assembly Member Mark Stone
San Mateo County Transportation Authority State Legislative Delegation
San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors