



TA Board of Directors
Meeting of April 3, 2025

Correspondence as of March 20, 2025

Subject

1. Board Follow-up Letter on Ballot Measure re: SB 63 (Wiener) Regional Transportation Funding

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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March 19, 2025

The Honorable Scott Wiener
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8620
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Arreguín
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6710
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 63 (Wiener) Regional Transportation Funding

Dear Senator Wiener and Senator Arreguín:

For the past two years, the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) and the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (Transportation Authority) have actively engaged in efforts to create a viable regional transportation ballot measure. We recognize the importance of a robust and interconnected transportation network.

Unfortunately, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) process did not result in a measure proposal we could support. MTC's polling also confirmed that a regional measure requiring affirmative votes from two-thirds of the electorate is not viable.

We appreciate many elements of MTC's recently adopted Revenue Measure Principles, which align with values we consistently advocated for throughout the process. However, relying on a successful citizens' initiative (and its associated 50 percent + one vote threshold) to pass a half-cent sales tax increase for public transportation comes with significant risk.

For these reasons, SamTrans and the Transportation Authority will proactively:

- Focus on reauthorizing San Mateo County's Measure A half-cent transportation sales tax in 2028, even though it does not expire until December 31, 2033. Early reauthorization of Measure A with a new expenditure plan could accelerate funding for transit operations. We will explore renewing Measure A at the current half-cent sales tax level, and at a higher rate to generate more funding. This effort may require new authorizing legislation.
- In parallel, continue collaborating with the bill authors and the Bay Area delegation as the regional measure unfolds. We intend to help shape the legislation fairly and ensure San Mateo County preserves the option to opt-in voluntarily.
- Conduct polling and focus groups to guide informed decision-making on the best path forward for San Mateo County to generate transportation funding both locally and regionally.

Senator Wiener, Senator Arreguín

March 19, 2025

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We will continue to work towards fair and practical solutions. If you have questions please contact Jessica Epstein, Government and Community Affairs Director, at epsteinj@samtrans.com.

Sincerely,



April Chan
General Manager/CEO, Executive Director



Jeff Gee
Chair, San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors



Carlos Romero
Chair, San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors

Cc: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors
David Canepa, Commissioner, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Gina Papan, Commissioner, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors
San Mateo County Transit District and San Mateo County Transportation Authority Legislative
Delegation