



TA Board of Directors  
Meeting of July 10, 2025

Correspondence as of July 10, 2025 – Part 2

#   Subject

1. Public Comment: Join SB63
2. Public Comment: Mike Swire re-appointment
3. Public Comment: comment on Item #12a
4. Public Comment: Please join the regional measure for transit funding
5. Public Comment: Keep Swire on board
6. Public Comment: Support Mike Swire's Reappointment
7. Public Comment: Mark Swire - CAC

**From:** [Nahid Varjavand](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Join SB63  
**Date:** Thursday, July 10, 2025 4:17:14 PM

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Hi,

I am a longtime resident of San Mateo County, and expect SMCTA to join the regional funding measure, which will be easier to pass and won't take a local tax to fund. The residents of San Mateo County count on seamless public transportation, to fulfill social and climate responsibilities as a society. This measure will prevent service cuts on Caltrain, BART, SamTrans and all other Bay Area transit agencies. We demand regional transit funding!

Thank you,

Nahid Varjavand  
San Carlos resident

**From:** [Chip B. Goldstein](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Mike Swire re-appointment  
**Date:** Thursday, July 10, 2025 4:16:51 PM

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SMCTA Board members,

As a volunteer activist for Citizens' Climate lobby, I support the re-appointment of Mike Swire. Furthermore, I urge you to oppose any attempt to silence or intimidate members of independent oversight committees. Mike works tirelessly to stop car-centric infrastructure in favor of cycling and pedestrian infrastructure and safety.

Thank you,

Dr. Chip Goldstein  
Half Moon Bay

**From:** [Wendy Chou](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** comment on Item #12a  
**Date:** Thursday, July 10, 2025 4:48:50 PM

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Honorable Members of the Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on Agenda Item #12a of tonight's SMCTA Board Meeting. As a parent of a middle schooler, my top priority as a citizen is a strong response to our climate crisis, and for me, a well funded public transit system in my region represents one of the best tools we have for reducing greenhouse gas emissions while creating multiple co-benefits (e.g., better air quality). The Peninsula's current car-dependent culture — so different from many cosmopolitan cities in Europe and Asia — has resulted in never-ending traffic, spikes of road rage, and a sharp rise in fatal collisions, all while preventing people from being healthier and more active in their mode of travel. Supporting a transit system that is affordable, equitable and efficient (that is, sufficiently frequent!!) is a major key to unlock this puzzle.

I have been a San Mateo City resident since 2016 and, when close to home, I frequently use both SamTrans buses and the electrified Caltrain for personal and professional modes of travel. I combine Caltrain ridership with my bicycle for "last mile" needs since I am about a 35 min walk from two different Caltrain stops, but I can cover that distance in about 12 min by bicycle. I use BART when going to San Francisco or the East Bay, sometimes in coordination with transfers with Caltrain at Millbrae station (which is often very clunky).

Speaking of transfers, I find that there is a minimal amount of coordination currently between the Peninsula and other regions of the Bay Area. (For example, the final northbound Caltrain stop in SF at 4th St is not very conveniently located to BART or other connections, and I don't feel particularly safe walking around that area to get to Civic Center or other BART stations.)

In fact, San Mateo County does not exist in isolation. People work, recreate, do their shopping, and simply travel to many other parts of the Bay Area from SMC. For us to truly address climate emissions, I strongly support San Mateo County joining the regional transit funding measure (SB 63) to prevent service cuts on Caltrain, BART, SamTrans and all other Bay Area transit agencies. A comprehensive system is necessary or else people will just keep defaulting to car travel which is currently far faster and more convenient. I think a lot about how much extra cost and time is required for me to make the better, lower-carbon, more active choice of using public transit, and how much I would appreciate

having this decision of avoiding the car be easier to make.

I am not in favor of having San Mateo County re-authorize its local half-cent sales tax rather than joining the regional measure, as I feel that this would be an inadequate gesture, and would merely be stripping funds from other useful sources (e.g. for protecting local street safety).

Thank you for your consideration and for your public service.

Sincerely,  
Wendy

Transit rider, environmental advocate, and resident of the City of San Mateo

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**From:** [Margaret Cumming](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Please join the regional measure for transit funding  
**Date:** Thursday, July 10, 2025 4:52:18 PM

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I join Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition in support of San Mateo County joining the regional measure to fund transit. I use transit and don't want to see service cuts.

Margaret Cumming  
1032 Vera Ave  
Redwood City

**From:** [Colin Madere](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Keep Swire on board  
**Date:** Thursday, July 10, 2025 5:01:52 PM

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I'm writing you to express extreme concern over removing someone who has real, positive, future-thinking ideas from your organization.

Some car-only thinkers may not like what he has to say but that doesn't mean he is wrong and it certainly doesn't mean he doesn't have the community's best interest in mind.

I drive, but I support Mike.

Colin Madere  
San Mateo resident

**From:** [Riya Rawal](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Mike Swire's Reappointment  
**Date:** Thursday, July 10, 2025 5:20:23 PM

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Dear SMCTA Board Members,

My name is Riya, and I'm a student who cares deeply about safe and sustainable transportation in San Mateo County.

I respectfully ask that you reappoint Mike Swire to the Community Advisory Committee. I also hope you'll consider how important it is to protect the independence of oversight committees. Community members like Mike bring important perspectives, and it would be concerning if speaking up for safer streets and active transportation led to being removed from service.

Thank you for your time and for considering my input.

Sincerely,  
Riya

**From:** [Alistair Adams](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Mark Swire - CAC  
**Date:** Thursday, July 10, 2025 4:12:20 PM

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Dear Board Members,

I understand Mark Swire's position on the Community Advisory Council of the SMCTA is under review. I've interacted with Mark on several occasions and found him to be a positive and creative advocate. Transportation in San Mateo is a critical function and I believe it is important to have people that bring different perspectives to the table. I note that there are several open spaces on the CAC so I urge the board to keep Mark on the CAC to continue to have a diverse community input.

Best regards  
Alistair Adams  
San Carlos