



TA Board of Directors

Meeting of September 4, 2025

Correspondence as of July 25, 2025

#   Subject

1. Letter of Support from SamTrans and TA re: AB 476 (González) Metal Theft

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July 21, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Arreguín  
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 545  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 476 (González) Metal Theft**

Dear Senator Arreguín,

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) and the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (SMCTA), I am pleased to inform you that both agencies support **AB 476**, as amended on June 19, to enhance enforcement measures against precious metal theft. This bill will help protect California's public infrastructure and ensure the safety and functionality of essential services that our communities rely on.

Metal theft has become an increasingly widespread and costly issue, severely affecting infrastructure, construction, and transit projects. Thieves often target these public assets due to the high value of precious metal, specifically copper, leaving behind significant damage that endangers public safety and imposes burdensome repair costs on local agencies.

AB 476 provides much-needed enforcement tools to deter copper wire theft and hold perpetrators accountable for the harm they cause to public safety and infrastructure reliability. The bill would require junk dealers and recyclers to collect more detailed transaction records and provide access to these records to law enforcement. AB 476 also updates restrictions on possessing materials from public agencies and increases the fine for junk dealers or recyclers who fail to follow the law.

Given the significant impact of metal theft on Caltrain and the threat that this poses on the public safety and service reliability of Caltrain's newly electrified infrastructure, SamTrans and SMCTA believe that this bill will strengthen the legal framework needed to safeguard critical transit infrastructure in San Mateo County. Furthermore, metal theft is a potential source of construction cost drivers for SMCTA due to copper thefts at construction sites.

The Honorable Jesse Arreguín  
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For these reasons, we strongly support AB 476. Thank you for your time and consideration. 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,



April Chan  
General Manager/CEO

Cc: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors  
San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors  
San Mateo County Transit District State Legislative Delegation  
San Mateo County Transportation Authority Legislative Delegation