



TA Board of Directors

Meeting of September 4, 2025

Correspondence as of August 4, 2025

#   Subject

1. Letter of Support re: AB 1085 (Stefani): License plates: obstruction or alteration As amended on June 11, 2025 – NOTICE OF SUPPORT



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025**

CARLOS ROMERO, CHAIR  
JULIA MATES, VICE CHAIR  
NOELIA CORZO  
ANDERS FUNG  
RICO E. MEDINA  
MARK NAGALES  
JACKIE SPEIER

APRIL CHAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 25, 2025

The Honorable Catherine Stefani  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 5220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1085 (Stefani): License plates: obstruction or alteration  
As amended on June 11, 2025 – NOTICE OF SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Stefani,

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (SMCTA), I am writing to express our support for your Assembly Bill 1085, which would strengthen existing law by clarifying that license plate covers (e.g. shades, tints, and obstructions) that impair electronic or visual toll and law enforcement systems are prohibited, and increase penalties for manufacturing and selling such devices in California.

License plate covers – physical devices or materials designed to be placed over or around a vehicle's license plate – are specifically designed to obstruct or distort the plate's visibility. According to the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA), nearly one million unpaid crossings occurred on state-owned bridges in Fiscal Year 2023–24 due to obstructed or altered plates – resulting in an estimated \$6.8 million in lost revenue. These figures do not include unpaid tolls on express lanes.

In the Bay Area, BATA uses bridge toll revenue to support pedestrian and bicycle upgrades, transit connectivity, congestion relief projects, and grade separations. In San Mateo County, toll revenues are used to fund transportation improvements along express lane corridors, and to support a Community Transportation Benefits Program to help cover transportation costs for qualified individuals.

By expanding the definition of prohibited devices, holding manufacturers accountable alongside sellers, and increasing fines to create meaningful deterrence, AB 1085 will help prevent toll evasion and help fund vital infrastructure improvements in San Mateo County and throughout the state.

For these reasons, we support AB 1085. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact TA Government and Community Affairs Director, Jessica Epstein, at [EpsteinJ@samtrans.com](mailto:EpsteinJ@samtrans.com). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'April Chan', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

April Chan  
Executive Director

CC: San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors

**SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**  
1250 San Carlos Avenue  
San Carlos, CA 94070 (650) 508-6200