



TA Board of Directors

Meeting of September 4, 2025

Correspondence as of August 29, 2025

Subject

1. Letter from Jeff Gee to Assemblymember Diane Papan re: Senate Bill (SB) 63

August 27, 2025

The Honorable Diane Papan
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4220
Sacramento, CA 94249

Assemblymember Papan:

Thank you very much for championing accountability for San Mateo County and SB63. Your passion in seeking clear and strong accountability measures for our taxpayers is to be applauded.

Your participation in the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors SB 63 informational study session reenforced the critical need for clear accountability measures in the bill. Stemming from that meeting, the Board of Supervisors asked that I share my thoughts about an accountability strategy that seeks to balance our local desires and those of the region. I write in my individual capacity, based on my years of experience as a leader in regional transportation matters generally, and of the San Mateo County Transit District, specifically.

The authors of SB63 and MTC have suggested that a Regional Oversight Committee be formed that consists of two (2) members from each opt-in county. Five (5) counties have approved participation in SB 63: Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara. This would be the “table” at which participating counties would be able to discuss accountability and performance by the major transit operators that would be funded by SB63 if approved by the voters: AC Transit, BART, Caltrain and Muni. Within that context, I suggest that:

- Action by this Oversight Committee would require (a) a majority vote, AND (b) votes of at least one member from each opt-in county.
- If a member county’s representatives fail to attend more than two consecutive Committee meetings where a vote or decision is required, the member’s county would either vacate its voting role on the subject vote or decision, or the matter would be escalated to the full MTC Commission for action.
- The withholding of allocations to each major transit operator, with distribution subject to the discretion of the Oversight Committee, should be increased from 5% to 10%.

The full MTC Commission also would still have the right to withhold funds from a transit operator for poor performance or bad behavior. In the most extreme situations, the commission could demand a change in leadership in exchange for release of funding – MTC has exercised these options in the past.

With regards to performance, it is important that performance metrics developed for and considered by the Oversight Committee are clear, transparent and achievable so that the public can see for themselves operator performance.

These are just some of my personal thoughts for your consideration as you negotiate with your colleagues on accountability. My suggestions have not been brought before the SamTrans or Caltrain Boards of Directors for action. However, I have shared many of these comments at public meetings of both boards as SB63 was considered.

Again, thank you for your leadership and commitment to strong accountability for San Mateo County.

Regards,



Jeff Gee

Chair, San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors*

Member, Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board*

**For identification purposes only*

Cc: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

Carlos Romero, Chair, San Mateo County Transportation Authority

Adam Rak, Chair, City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County