



# San Mateo County Shuttle Program Technical Assistance Workshop

October 1, 2019
SamTrans, 2nd Floor Auditorium





# Workshop Agenda

- Purpose of Workshop
- Overview of TA C/CAG Shuttle Program
- Call for Projects Process
- Performance Metrics and Case Studies
- Planning and Service Considerations
- Technical Assistance Process
- Q&A





## **Purpose of Workshop**

- Inform potential applicants and current recipients of:
  - ➤ TA C/CAG Shuttle Program Funding
  - > Technical Assistance
  - Best Practices









#### **Technical Assistance**

- Assistance to plan or improve shuttle service
- Available to potential applicants of shuttle funding until Call for Projects
- Based on staff availability sponsors are advised to contact SamTrans or Commute.org as soon as possible
- Receipt of technical assistance is not a guarantee of funding





# **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### Agency Roles

- > TA
- > C/CAG
- > Commute.org
- > SamTrans













# **Shuttle Purpose & Types**



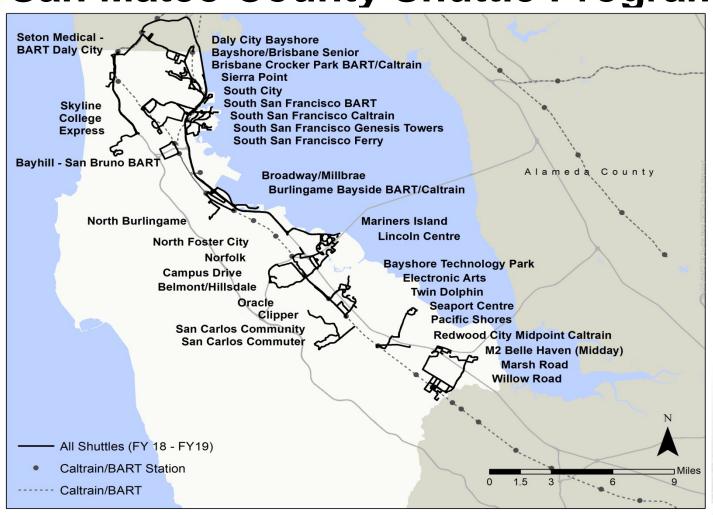


- *Purpose:* Fill gaps in regular bus service (route & time)
- Commuter shuttles: provide first/last mile peak commute link to/from regional transit to primarily access employment centers.
- Community shuttles: provide all, mid-day or weekend service generally within a community for basic needs (e.g. shopping, dining, medical) and often serve the transit-dependent.
  - Door to door shuttles are a subset of community shuttles that provide direct point to point service by advance reservation and do not run on a regular scheduled route



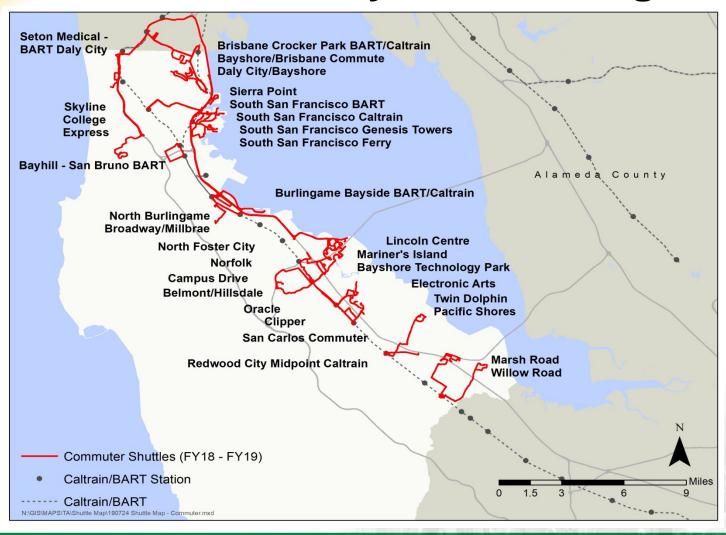
# C/CAG City/County Association of Governments

# TA-C/CAG Funded Shuttles San Mateo County Shuttle Program



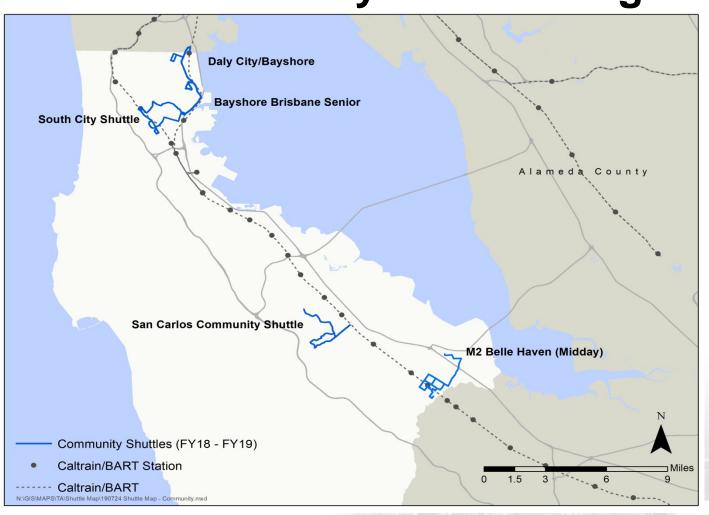


# Commuter Shuttles San Mateo County Shuttle Program





# Community Serving Shuttles San Mateo County Shuttle Program







# Call for Projects – Applications

- Funding from TA and C/CAG with Joint Call for Fiscal Years 2021 & 2022
- Sponsors: public agencies in San Mateo County
- Minimum eligibility requirements:
  - Receive technical assistance (for new shuttles and existing shuttles not meeting benchmarks)
  - > Shuttles must be open to the public
  - Serve San Mateo County residents/employees
  - Letter of Concurrence from SamTrans
  - Non supplantation of funds
  - Governing Body Resolution of Support





# Call for Projects – Funding

- Local match: minimum 25%, 50% for existing shuttles that miss operating cost/passenger benchmark by 50% or more
  - ➤ Commuter shuttles: Local agency funds, employer contributions, grants
  - Community shuttles: Local agency funds, grants







# Call for Projects – Reporting

- On-going progress reports required
- Annual reports required









# Service Adjustment Protocol

- Route map is part of funding agreement
- Any changes to the route must fit within the original scope of the shuttle service
- Must be reviewed and approved by the funding agencies





#### **Performance Benchmarks**

Shuttle Performance Benchmarks	Commuter	Community	Door to Door
Operating Cost/Passenger from last Call for Projects	≤ \$8.00	≤ \$10.00	≤ \$20.00
Proposed Operating Cost/Passenger for next Call for Projects	TBD	TBD	TBD
Passengers/Vehicle Service Hour	≥ 15	≥ 10	≥ 2
Operating Cost/Passenger with CPI update for FY 2019*	≤ \$9.00	≤ \$11.00	≤ \$22.00

<sup>\*</sup>Updated operating cost/passenger benchmark for FY 2019 used to determine if matching fund increase will be required





# Case Study - Commuter

# Shuttle X: Successful

- \$3 /passenger
- Approx. 22 passengers per service hour
- Vested employer group & reverse commute passengers
- Well serviced regional transportation station
- Short trip time to/from transit station

# **Shuttle Y: Needs Improvement**

- \$13 /passenger
- Approx. 9 passengers per service hour
- Employer group with no financial investment
- Limited reverse commute potential
- Transit station that has limited local service with no express trains





# **Case Study – Community**

# Shuttle A: Successful

- \$6/passenger
- Approx. 16 passengers per service hour
- Regular service during peak time periods for its ridership
- Fixed route
- Serves targeted needs of population base (e.g. seniors, transit dependent)

## Shuttle B: Needs Improvement

- \$30/passenger
- Approx. 3 passengers per service hour
- Limited service not aligned with ridership
- Fixed route
- Destinations do not align with needs of possible passengers





#### Shuttle Service Considerations

- Is a shuttle the right solution?
  - What are the needs of your residents/employees?
  - Could traditional bus service meet the need?
  - ➤ Is parking free and readily available at their destination?







# Customer Experience & Marketing

- Critical to the success of the service and continued funding of project
- Includes identifying target passengers, branding, outreach & social media







# Customer Experience & Marketing

#### Customer experience

- > Provided by managing agency, sponsor or City
- Commute.org and SamTrans provide customer service only for routes they manage

#### Route marketing

- > Responsibility of sponsor, City and/or employers
- > Targets individual route and its potential riders

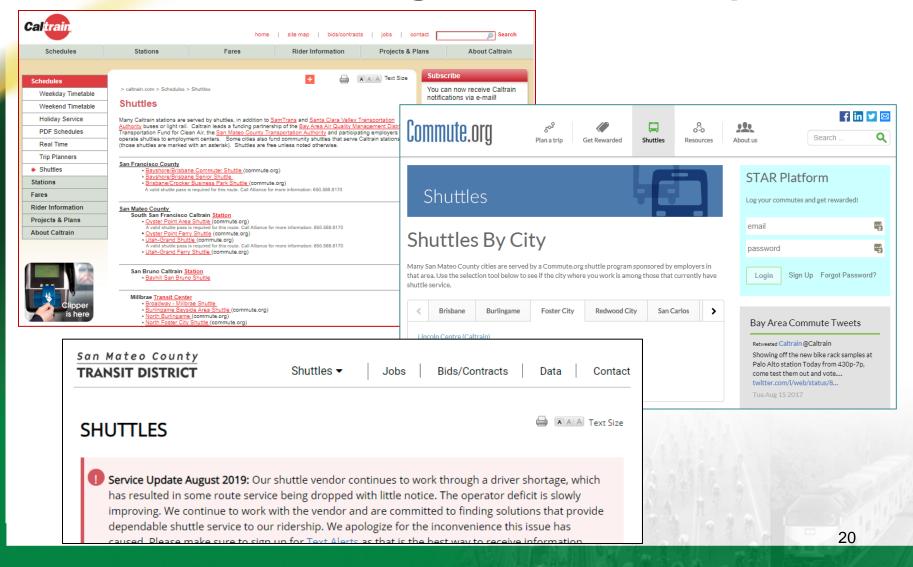
### Countywide marketing

- ➤ Commute.org, Caltrain and SamTrans websites
- > Trip planning tools





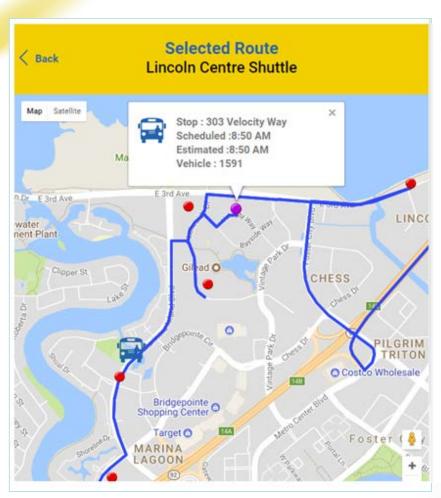
## **Shuttle Marketing & Customer Experience**



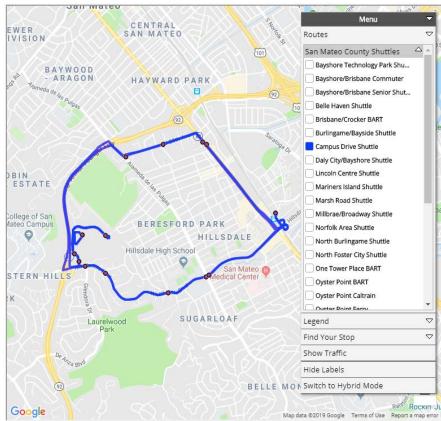




# **Shuttle Tracking Tools**



#### WHERE'S MY SHUTTLE?

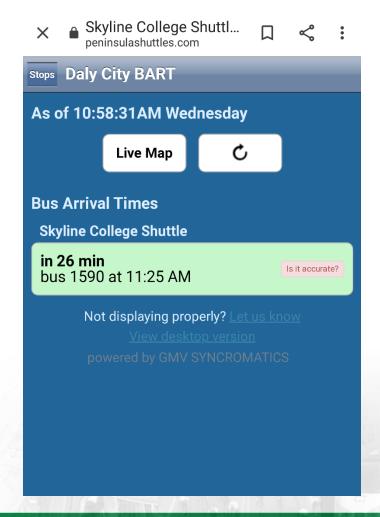






# **Shuttle Tracking Tools**

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#### Commute.org – Technical Assistance

#### For Commuter Shuttles:

Commute.org shuttle team will provide Technical Assistance for existing routes as well as proposed routes.

Route sponsors should prepare the following material in advance of meeting with Commute.org:

- Route objective
- Needs assessment
- Key employers, stop locations, destinations, partners
- Analysis of residential service potential
- Management plan roles and responsibilities





#### SamTrans – Technical Assistance

#### For Community Shuttles:

SamTrans Operations Planning Staff will provide Technical Assistance and Evaluate all Shuttle Applications as part of the Call for Projects process.

- Meet with SamTrans Staff
- Duplication Criteria for Shuttle Evaluation
- ➤ Letter of Concurrence (needed for your application)





#### SamTrans - Shuttle Evaluation

#### Duplication Criteria for Shuttle Evaluation:

#### Geographic

➤ Stops or Route within 1/3 mile of existing bus route and existing shuttle service

#### Frequency

Scheduled stops within 15 minutes of existing fixed route bus schedule stops

#### Span of Service

Within span of service for fixed route

Extenuating circumstances would be considered on a case-by-case basis.





#### References

#### Call for Projects – Transportation Authority

www.smcta.com/Projects/Call\_for\_Projects.html

#### Call for Projects – C/CAG

http://ccag.ca.gov/opportunities/call-for-projects-2/

#### **Community Transit Planning and Funding Guide**

www.smcta.com/Assets/\_Public+Affairs/Government+Affairs/pdf/SamTrans+Community+Transit+Guide.pdf





## Thank you

## **Technical Assistance – Community Shuttles**

Alex Lam, SamTrans lama@samtrans.com, (650) 508-6227

#### **Technical Assistance – Commuter Shuttles**

Richard Fontela/Maria Timofeyeva, Commute.org shuttles@commute.org, (650) 588-8170

## **Call for Projects**

Joel Slavit, TA slavitj@samtrans.com, (650) 508-6476 Susy Kalkin, C/CAG kkalkin@smcgov.org, (650) 599-1467