

March 21, 2019

Valley Transportation Authority
2240 S 7th St.
San Jose, CA 95112

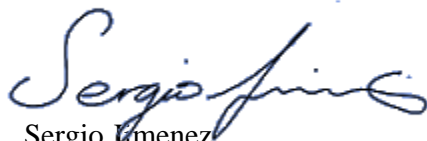
Honorable Chair O'Neill and Members of the Board,

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) provides valuable services to Santa Clara County, which are essential to the communities we represent. That said, the VTA needs significant budget revisions, likely creating reductions and consolidations in services that are needed by people who are most dependent on public transit. Indeed, any cut made to VTA operations will greatly affect our constituents, leading to more cars on the road and less access to social services and basic necessities. In short, there are no good outcomes when reducing public transit.

Understanding the inevitability of this action, however, we are left with only one priority: to ensure all factors are considered carefully when deciding which VTA lines are reduced or eliminated. We are concerned, as representatives of South San Jose and South Santa Clara County, that our constituents will be given the short end of the stick as it relates to transportation alternatives. That the electrification of Caltrain to Gilroy is in doubt given the uncertainty surrounding High-Speed Rail is bad enough - it would be much more devastating for important bus routes to be eliminated. The reduction of Route 121 from 9 to 6 daily trips will adversely impact constituents who work or otherwise depend on services located along Highway 101 from Mountain View, through San Jose and to Morgan Hill and Gilroy. Along the same vein, we are concerned about plans to eliminate Route 122, which provides service along Capitol Expressway and the Seven Trees area to important connections with light rail at Snell and Santa Teresa Stations and to important destinations such as the South San Jose Kaiser Medical Center. It may be a sensible alternative to significantly shorten Route 122 to save resources and time while still connecting an area already suffering from insufficient public transportation options.

Although Route 22 does not touch either of our Districts, it is important that we voice concerns regarding the elimination of the overnight buses given their importance to working individuals looking to get across the county late at night or early in the morning. It is also worth mentioning the impacts this service reduction would have on homeless individuals who have come to depend on these buses on days where the elements pose a significant danger to life and property. Lastly, we are happy to see VTA has determined Route 68 along the Monterey Corridor should be improved and we hope more transportation resources are dedicated to Monterey Road in the future.

Sincerely,



Sergio Jimenez
Councilmember, District 2
City of San José



Mike Wasserman
Supervisor, District 1
Santa Clara County