



JPB Board of Directors
Meeting of June 3, 2021

Correspondence as of June 3, 2021

Subject

- 1 Letter of Support - Manzanita Works
- 2 Emergency Hourly Caltrain Service between San Jose and Gilroy
- 3 Go Pass Donation Program
- 4 GoPass Distribution Pilot Program
- 5 New Hillsdale Station Access from 31st Avenue

From: Taylor, Art <ataylor@jobtrainworks.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 10:52 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Letter of Support - Manzanita Works
Attachments: Letter to CalTrain_NonProfit Partner_JobTrain.pdf

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To Whom it may concern.

Attached please find a letter of support for the Manzanita Works transit project. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Art

Art Taylor, MPA

Chief Strategy Officer

See what's cooking at JobTrain!



JOB TRAIN

Email: ataylor@jobtrainworks.org

Phone: 650-330-6451

Cell Phone: 415-812-5331

Website: jobtrainworks.org

Address: [1200 O'Brien Drive, Menlo Park CA 94025](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1200+O'Brien+Drive,+Menlo+Park,+CA+94025)





To: Chair Davis and Members of the Caltrain Board of Directors,

JobTrain is a 501(c)3 nonprofit educational and training institution. For over 50 years, we have transformed lives and communities in Silicon Valley. We help the Valley's most in need reclaim their lives from poverty and unemployment by preparing them for successful, sustainable careers in high-demand and emerging fields.

JobTrain employs 70 Bay Area residents and expect to hire 10 additional staff members in 2021. JobTrain serves 550-600 students at our Menlo Park flagship site. In 2020 we opened a satellite location in San Jose and this year, we will open a location in South San Francisco. Like so many workers who form the backbone of our regional economy, our staff and students often struggle with disconnected public services and see the need for transportation solutions to move towards greater equity.

With this in mind, JobTrain joined the Ravenswood Transit Consortium, organized by Manzanita Works. We are looking forward to our staff and students returning to work and train at our facilities with additional transit options.

We are pleased to hear that Caltrain has adjusted its policies about the distribution of its GoPass to enable a wider variety of workers, including part-time, non-regular, and contract workers in the community, to access this program. We understand that the Board is nominating potential community-based organizations to pilot the distribution of these passes.

We urge you to consider Manzanita Works as one of these community-based organizations invited to pilot GoPass distribution at this time.

We believe transportation equity is essential. As a long-time leader in workforce development for underserved populations, we strongly encourage you to consider Manzanita Works as a trusted community partner for your pilot program.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "ART TAYLOR".

Art Taylor
Chief Strategy Officer, JobTrain, Inc.

From: [Roland Lebrun](#)
To: [Baltao, Elaine \[board.secretary@vta.org\]](#); [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)
Cc: [MTC Commission](#); [Michelle.Bigelow@morganhill.ca.gov](#); [general@morganhill.ca.gov](#)
Subject: Emergency hourly Caltrain service between San Jose and Gilroy
Date: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 1:23:34 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
Importance: High

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Dear VTA and Caltrain Boards,

Further to the 5-26-21 attack on VTA's light rail facilities and the crippling impacts throughout Santa Clara County's public transportation infrastructure and south Santa Clara County in particular, please consider agendizing an emergency motion to appropriate some of VTA's surplus \$110M Cares Act funds to support the operation of hourly Caltrain service between San Jose and Gilroy at least until light rail service has been restored and the 68 bus line has recovered enough capacity to meet demand.

<http://santaclaravta.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=6&ID=1801>

Thank you in advance for addressing this issue with the utmost urgency.

Roland Lebrun

CC

MTC Commissioners
City of Gilroy
City of Morgan Hill
VTA PAC
VTA CAC
Caltrain CAC

FY2021 Operating Balance Preliminary Projections – (as of June 2021)

	FY21 Current Budget	FY21 Projections	
		(Mar 2021)	(Jun 2021)
Subtotal - Sales Tax Related	\$439.6M	\$402.6M	\$411.7M
Subtotal - Fares	\$38.6M	\$9.4M	\$13.5M
Subtotal - Other Revenues	\$35.7M	\$29.4M	\$30.5M
TOTAL REVENUES	\$513.9M	\$441.4M	\$455.7M
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$525.5M	\$480.7M	\$481.8M
OPERATING BALANCE (before applying CARES Act Funding)	(\$11.6M)	(\$39.3M)	(\$26.1M)
CARES ACT FUNDS REMAINING (after budget gap is bridged)*	N/A	\$96.8M	\$110.1M

Notes: *CARES Act Funding available as of July 2020 was approx. \$136.1M that will be used to bridge the negative operating balance at the end of FY2021 and subsequent FYs. The current budget was developed before the existence of CARES Act Funding.



From: Steve Raney <steve@paloaltotma.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 5:06 PM
To: Public Comment
Cc: Kruti Ladani; Jones, Melissa
Subject: 6/3 Board, item 6L: 2021 Go Pass Donation Program

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6/2/21

TO:

- Caltrain Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, publiccomment@caltrain.com
- Melissa Jones, Principal Planner, Caltrain, JonesM@samtrans.com

From:

- Palo Alto TMA

Subject: 6/3 Board, item 6L: 2021 Go Pass Donation Program

Dear Caltrain Joint Powers Board,

Kudos to Caltrain's Equity Analysis conclusion to prioritize the needs of riders/communities who depend on transit for essential travel.

Over the past three years, PATMA has purchased \$582,000 in Caltrain monthly passes for high-turnover, low-income workers with median annual income of \$31,200.

We aspire to collaborate with staff on Phase 1 implementation, addressing:

- How should we validate that the pass is being used?
- How should we reclaim passes when a worker's employment ends?
- How do we prevent workers from selling the passes?
- 75% of service workers have smartphones. How do we move to mobile app ticketing?

OUR REQUEST: PATMA requests Caltrain prioritizes

- nonprofits that have previously purchased Caltrain transit passes for low-income and underrepresented commuters
over
- nonprofits that have not previously purchased passes for such commuters.

DETAILS ABOUT PATMA'S EXISTING CALTRAIN TRANSIT PASS PROGRAM:

Our program changes lives, increases employee retention, and increases Palo Alto’s competitiveness.

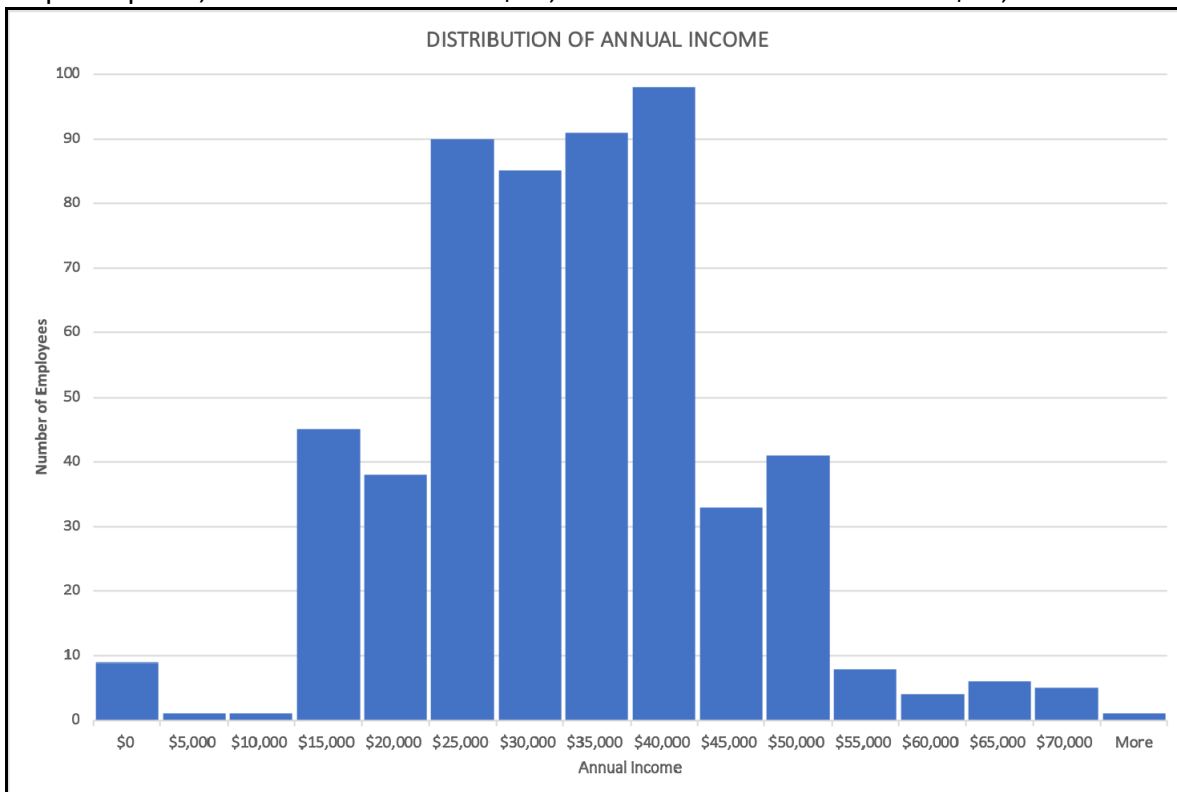
Testimonials

- “Without this program, I wouldn’t be able to work here. **This is instrumental in helping people have a job out here.**”
- “Our hardest thing is hiring people. Alleviating an employee's cost of traveling to work by \$150/month is like **getting a \$1/hour raise.**”
- “Being able to offer potential employees the TMA transit pass gives us a **leg up to hire new employees.** For some people, it's a deciding point about whether they will work here or not.”
- “I love when my employees take the train because then they’re **on time for their shifts.** When they drive they’re often late because they’re stuck in traffic.”



The program changes lives and improves hiring

For program participants, the median income is \$31,200 while the mean income is \$31,440:



Annual income distribution of transit pass program participants

Downtown businesses have a 200% annual turnover (16% monthly turnover) of employees. The TMA’s transit pass program reduces turnover to about half as much. A lower turnover rate means that the transit pass full subsidy also helps employers retain their employees by giving them a sustainable commute.

TRANSIT PASSES	Aug '18	Sep '18	Oct '18	Nov '18	Dec '18	Jan '19	Feb '19	Mar '19	Apr '19	May '19	Jun '19
Passes Activated	117	149	214	227	241	240	245	229	214	198	187
New applications	36	49	74	33	40	22	28	0	0	0	0
Turnover		17	9	20	26	23	23	16	15	16	11
Percent turnover		11.4%	4.2%	8.8%	10.8%	9.6%	9.4%	7.0%	7.0%	8.1%	5.9%

Monthly turnover rate of transit pass program participants

The Federal Transit Administration highlighted this unique-in-the-U.S. program, in PATMA’s peer-reviewed [Social Equity and Accessibility: Low-income Transit Pass Program](#), for City of Palo Alto’s Fair Value Commuting Project, Part of the Federal Transit Administration’s Mobility on Demand Sandbox.

In the U.S., equity-increasing TDM programs are rare

A query on the national TDM professionals listserv (transp-tdm) produced only 11 additional equity-increasing programs, with none as generous as the PATMA Transit Subsidy Program. ([PATMA CY2018 Annual Report](#), Section 2)

Thanks in advance for your consideration,

PATMA Board of Directors:

- Brad Ehikian, Premier Properties
- Philip Kamhi, City of Palo Alto
- Matthew Weinberg, Amazon/A9
- Jessica Roth, The Cobblery
- Rob George (ex-officio member), Joint Venture Silicon Valley

PATMA Staff:

- Steve Raney
- Kruti Ladani

steve@paloaltotma.org

Palo Alto TMA, Mgmt by Altrans TMA Inc
 855 El Camino Real #13A-200, Palo Alto, CA 94301
 P: (650) 324-3127, www.paloaltotma.org

From: [Mila Zelkha](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Cc: [pastor@universityamez.com](#); [distancia5@hotmail.com](#); [terry@terrysandoval.com](#); [Ian Bain](#); [janjancl@gmail.com](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Caltrain Board of Directors June 3rd Meeting - GoPass Distribution Pilot Program
Date: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 9:50:06 PM
Attachments: [LetterCaltrain_ManzanitaCoalition_6-2-21.pdf](#)

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders.
cc Manzanita Works' founding board members//

Dear Caltrain Board of Directors,

Please see the attached letter from the Manzanita Coalition regarding tomorrow's informational item in your consent agenda related to the nomination of qualified community-based organizations for the GoPass distribution pilot.

Our organization, Manzanita Works, convenes and provides support to the Coalition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mila Zelkha
Chief Executive Officer
Manzanita Works
650-518-0040

Caltrain Board of Directors
June 2nd, 2021

To: Chair Davis and Members of the Caltrain Board of Directors,

The Manzanita Coalition is an independent community organization comprised of voluntary civic institutions working together to improve the lives of Bay Area workers and their families. Our Coalition represents approximately 10,000 people in this region, and includes leadership and membership from historically underserved populations including those who have been consistently underrepresented and disenfranchised. Many of our Coalition members are frontline workers, immigrants, and people for whom English is not their first or primary language. Many work in our schools, restaurants, and are the very essential workers in the pandemic.

We believe that transportation equity is very important. The workers who form the backbone of our regional economy often struggle with disconnected public services, of which transportation is key in moving towards greater equity for our workers.

We are pleased to hear that Caltrain has adjusted its policies about the distribution of its GoPass to enable non-regular contract and other deserving members of the community to begin to access this wonderful program. We understand that the Board is nominating community-based organizations to pilot the distribution of these passes.

We have a transit subcommittee that engages with major employers in this region to provide workers feasible and affordable commute options. We are exploring ways in which we can bridge services provided to the on-the-ground realities of our workers. As leaders in the community on transportation equity, **we strongly encourage you to consider Manzanita Works as a trusted community-based organization to pilot GoPass distribution.**

Respectfully,

The Manzanita Coalition

Including but not limited to the following voluntary civic institutions:

California School Employees Association, MVLTA Local Chapter 527
California School Employees Association, Palo Alto Local Chapter 301
Congregation Etz Chayim, Palo Alto
Day Worker Center of Mountain View
Mountain View Los Altos District Teachers Association
Mountain View Tenants Coalition
Palo Alto Educators Association
Ravenswood Teacher Association
St. Mark AME Zion Church, East Palo Alto
University AME Zion Church, Palo Alto

From: [jb](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: New Hillsdale Station Access from 31st Avenue
Date: Thursday, June 3, 2021 5:31:07 AM

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On Tuesday, June 1st, I sent three questions to smgradesep@caltrain.com.

So far I have not received a reply.

The questions are:

1. Will there be pedestrian access from 31st Avenue?
2. Will there be bicycle access from 31st Avenue?
3. Will there be wheelchair access to the new Hillsdale Station from 31st Avenue?

Any information would be appreciated.

Thank you,

Jerry B.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10