



JPB Board of Directors
Meeting of May 7, 2020

Correspondence as of April 10, 2020

Subject

1 Thank You Letter to Secretary Chao

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April 8, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Authority (Caltrain), the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), and the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (Transportation Authority), I write to thank you for your support of public transportation funding included in the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act" or the CARES Act.

We are in an unprecedented time in our country's history due to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the CARES Act comes at a critical time for transit agencies.

As public transportation has been deemed an essential service and continues to operate, significant revenue losses have been felt. Both Caltrain and SamTrans have experienced severe ridership declines as a result of the region-wide "shelter-in-place" public health order. On the first day of the order, Caltrain recorded a 95 percent decrease in average daily ticket sales which has dramatic financial impacts because 70 percent of the operating budget comes from fares. In the two subsequent weeks since the "shelter-in-place order," SamTrans ridership was down nearly 80 percent.

The CARES Act provides a viable path forward for transit agencies and I want to thank you again for your support of public transportation that is so fundamental to the vitality and health of the region, state, and the entire country. We truly appreciate all of your efforts.

Sincerely,

Jim Hartnett
Executive Director/General Manager/Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Federal Transit Administration Acting Administrator K. Jane Williams
Federal Transit Administration Executive Director Matthew Welbes