



**Associated Students, SJSU, Board of Directors' Letter of Support 20/21-01
Support for Implementation of Bay Area Seamless Transit
Principles;**

AFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH STATE AGENCIES, METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (MTC), MUNICIPALITIES AND OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES TO DEVELOP A HIGHLY INTEGRATED REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES CONVENIENT, SEAMLESS, AND AFFORDABLE TRANSIT FOR ALL.

Dear San José State University Community,

It is the mission of Associated Students of San José State University to represent the students of San José State University and continually improve the quality of their educational opportunity and experience. Associated Students (A.S.) is the official voice of over 33,000 students at San José State University (SJSU).

Background

Despite the critical importance of high quality public transportation in supporting a healthy, environmentally sustainable, equitable, and accessible San Francisco Bay Area, public transportation is only used in 12% of all commute trips in the region, compared to 75% of commute trips made by car. The quality and usage of public transit in the Bay Area has trended downwards in recent years, with transit trips per capita declining by 10% and bus speeds declining by 9% between 2001 and 2016. The COVID-19 pandemic has decimated ridership further, such that without major changes in how transit is operated and funded, transit is at risk of sustained declining use.

San José State University students are particularly impacted by the quality and connectivity of Bay Area public transit. Pre-pandemic, 36% of students used public transit to travel to campus. 13% of students cited having no other way of getting to campus besides public transit. 41% of students are commuting from outside of Santa Clara County (VTA's service area).

Using public transit in the Bay Area is inconvenient and costly for SJSU students as most trips require them to: use multiple transit systems operated independently with little coordination; pay multiple separate fares; experience unpredictable transfers; and navigate different wayfinding systems and brand identities from different agencies.

Regions with high-ridership, resilient, public transportation systems are, by contrast, characterized by highly integrated networks of quality local and regional transit services that make traveling without a private automobile convenient and easy for all types of trips. These systems feature aligned routes and schedules, seamless integration of trains and buses, coordinated transfers, high quality transit hubs, common branding and customer information, and other common regional customer experience standards.



In Support

The Associated Students of San José State University endorse the Seamless Transit Principles listed in Attachment (A), and agree to be publicly listed as a supporter of the principles' implementation. Supporting the Seamless Transit Principles aligns with San José State University's Transformation 2030 Initiative, particularly the desired outcomes related to SJSU's long-term goal to "Grow and Thrive". Two desired outcomes of this goal are to "Ensure that all stakeholders (students, faculty and staff members, alumni and community) are able to live and thrive in the region by expanding options of and accessibility to transportation and housing" and "Foster an inclusive environment and infrastructure where diverse populations can flourish".

All SJSU students and the persons we share this greater community with should have access to easy, inexpensive transportation. We urge San José State University, the San José City Council and Valley Transportation Authority to endorse the Seamless Transit Principles as well, affirming commitment to working collaboratively with State agencies, MTC, municipalities and other public agencies develop a highly integrated regional transportation system that provides convenient, seamless, and affordable transit for all.