



**SPUR**

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Mr. Glenn Hendricks, Chair  
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority  
3331 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
San Jose, CA 95134

June 2, 2021

**Re: Approval of Biennial Budget for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023**

Dear Chair Hendricks VTA Board of Directors,

As the region reopens, the fastest way to bring riders back to transit and improve the experience of current riders is to restore and increase transit service. If service is too sparse, people will not use it. To that end:

1. **We encourage VTA to restore service hours.** Federal rescue packages are intended to stabilize and sustain transit service despite revenue shortfalls. The focus must be ensuring that riders, especially people with low-incomes and people of color, have access to frequent and reliable transit service. In some cases, it may be more equitable to increase the frequency of service on routes where there remains high demand and where people are currently being passed up.
2. **We encourage VTA to continue to support Caltrain's operating and maintenance needs in this biennial budget.** Due to unprecedented declines in ridership and operating revenue, uncertainty about near term ridership recovery, and the need to win back riders, it is critical that Caltrain service be available when people are ready to return to transit. Additionally, there may be a mismatch in the availability of sales tax receipts and other funds necessary to keep Caltrain running reliably and in good working order.

Thank you for your work to steward public transit through this challenging period and work to enhance service for all.

Sincerely,

Laura Tolkoff  
Transportation Policy Director