

April 9, 2025

Senator Scott Wiener
1021 O Street, Suite 8620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Jesse Arreguín
1021 O Street, Suite 6710
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB63 (Wiener, Arreguín) - San Francisco Bay Area: local revenue measure: transportation funding - SUPPORT

Dear Senators Wiener and Arreguín,

SPUR strongly supports SB 63 and we appreciate your ongoing leadership in seeking funding to sustain and improve public transit.

Put simply, public transit is essential to the Bay Area. Every day, hundreds of thousands of our region's residents use buses, trains and ferries to get to work, to shop, to access medical services and to visit family and friends. Their collective use of transit keeps cars off the road and reduces delays and congestion for millions more Bay Area residents who regularly drive. In addition to supporting our region's mobility, transit also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and keeps our air clean, supports vibrancy and access in our dense city centers, and allows many of our region's households to affordably live with zero or few cars.

While transit is critical to the Bay Area, the future of our biggest systems is in jeopardy. BART, SF MUNI, AC Transit and Caltrain carry more than 80% of all transit riders in the region - and 30% of all transit riders statewide - but are facing catastrophic operating deficits over the coming few years. Without new revenue these agencies will have to resort to such deep cuts that the basic viability of their services is fundamentally compromised and recovery may become impossible.

SB 63 provides a solution. It seeks to give voters in Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco counties the opportunity to temporarily invest in sustaining and improving these critical transit

systems, while providing the option for San Mateo and Santa Clara counties to participate as well. The bill is not a panacea for all of transit's challenges- instead it provides a practical and politically realistic approach to a pressing regional problem and will keep our core transit systems running over the coming decade. Critically, in addition to financially supporting transit operations SB 63 also includes key policy provisions that aim to improve the customer experience on transit while holding operators accountable to continued financial efficiency improvements and reforms, ensuring public funds are used responsibly.

Certainly there is more work to be done- further amendments to SB 63 are anticipated and the work of developing a regional ballot campaign lies even further ahead. But SPUR believes this bill, and the ballot measure it enables, are sorely needed and we think that the current language sets a foundation for future success. We are proud to support SB 63 and look forward to continuing our work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LMT', written in a cursive style.

Laura Tolhoff
Transportation Policy Director, SPUR