



Maria Lombardo &lt;maria.lombardo@sfcta.org&gt;

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**AVERILL REQUEST: Public Comment for EPAC: Increase Paratransit Funding!**

1 message

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**Averilla** <averilla@gmail.com>

Thu, Feb 17, 2022 at 12:40 PM

To: Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org

Cc: cathy@sfgcommunityliving.org, michelle.beaulieu@sfcta.org, maria.lombardo@sfcta.org, MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org

**Subject:** Public Comment for EPAC: **Increase Paratransit Funding! PLEASE & THANKS !!!**

Dear EPAC members:

My name is ANNE AVERILL and I live in YOUR DISTRICT.

I am writing to urge the **EPAC** to increase the allotment for Paratransit programs. To meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities, **the EPAC should include a minimum of \$220 million of Priority 1 funding and \$70 million of Priority 2 funding for Paratransit in the final Expenditure Plan it recommends to the SFCTA Board.** This would increase the Paratransit allotment from 8.6% to 11.2% of the total revenue. While this doesn't meet the original request of the Paratransit program staff, it is a good compromise, considering the competing pulls on this funding.

While transportation can be a greater challenge for older adults and people with disabilities, San Francisco's Paratransit program provides **world-class services** that go above and beyond what federal law requires. The **Essential Trip Card**, a new Paratransit program that provides low-cost taxi rides to **seniors and people with disabilities**, has given thousands of San Franciscans the ability to feel safe travelling during COVID. Shop-a-round is a shared van to grocery stores that takes people door to door with their bags of groceries. Of course, SF Paratransit also provides federally mandated ADA Paratransit, which allows people who cannot ride Muni due to a disability to have another option. SFMTA's many Paratransit services enable older adults and people with disabilities to access healthcare, groceries, social services, stores, and friends and family -- and to do so with dignity.

Increasing costs to run these programs and increased demand require the City to set aside a larger percentage of sales tax revenue for Paratransit, which relies on this revenue for a substantial portion of its budget.

**Paratransit's costs have steadily increased since 2016, meaning that the current prop K allocation of 8.6% hasn't been meeting the program's needs.** Historically, Prop K funds have covered between 40% and 50% of Paratransit's costs. Unfortunately, due to rising program costs, Prop K funds have made up less than 40% of costs every year since 2016, reaching a **low in FY 21/22** of covering only 32% of costs. SFMTA staff originally asked for the revenue from the sales tax renewal to cover 40% of program costs, which would equate to \$315 million. Understanding that there are many competing needs on the sale tax funding, we think that an allotment of \$290 million is a **reasonable compromise**.

**In addition to rising costs, the age of San Francisco's population is increasing, so demand for Paratransit services is going to increase.** Older adults are the fastest growing age group in the city. In 2010, 19% of San Franciscans were aged 60 or older. In 2030, it is expected that nearly 30% of San Franciscans will be 60 or older. **Paratransit funding must be increased in order to meet future needs.**

Thank you, in advance, for ensuring that the Expenditure Plan serves the needs of older adults and people with disabilities in San Francisco.

**ANNE AVERILL / 2112 HYDE / SUITE SIX / SF, CA 94109**



Maria Lombardo &lt;maria.lombardo@sfcta.org&gt;

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## Public Comment for EPAC: Increase Paratransit Funding!

1 message

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**bts4birdie@aol.com** <bts4birdie@aol.com>

Thu, Feb 17, 2022 at 2:10 PM

Reply-To: bts4birdie@aol.com

To: "expenditureplan@sfcta.com" &lt;expenditureplan@sfcta.com&gt;

Cc: "melgarstaff@sfgov.org" &lt;melgarstaff@sfgov.org&gt;, "MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org" &lt;MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org&gt;,

"cathy@sfcommunityliving.org" &lt;cathy@sfcommunityliving.org&gt;, "michelle.beaulieu@sfcta.org"

&lt;michelle.beaulieu@sfcta.org&gt;, "maria.lombardo@sfcta.org" &lt;maria.lombardo@sfcta.org&gt;

Dear EPAC members:

My name is Byron Sakamoto and I live in District 7.

I am writing to urge the EPAC to increase the allotment for Paratransit programs. To meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities, **the EPAC should include a minimum of \$220 million of Priority 1 funding and \$70 million of Priority 2 funding for Paratransit in the final Expenditure Plan it recommends to the SFCTA Board.** This would increase the Paratransit allotment from 8.6% to 11.2% of the total revenue. While this doesn't meet the original request of the Paratransit program staff, it is a good compromise, considering the competing pulls on this funding.

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**In addition to rising costs, the age of San Francisco's population is increasing, so demand for Paratransit services is going to increase.** Older adults are the fastest growing age group in the city. In 2010, 19% of San Franciscans were aged 60 or older. In 2030, it is expected that nearly 30% of San Franciscans will be 60 or older. Paratransit funding must be increased in order to meet future needs.

Thank you, in advance, for ensuring that the Expenditure Plan serves the needs of older adults and people with disabilities in San Francisco.

2/17/22, 2:55 PM

SFCTA Mail - Public Comment for EPAC: Increase Paratransit Funding!

Byron Sakamoto



Maria Lombardo &lt;maria.lombardo@sfcta.org&gt;

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## Paratransit Funding

1 message

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**Starr Wilson** <csr2462@gmail.com>

Fri, Feb 18, 2022 at 8:45 AM

To: ChanStaff@sfgov.org, Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org, Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, Matt.Haney@sfgov.org, MelgarStaff@sfgov.org, MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org, Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org, Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org, expenditureplan@sfcta.com  
Cc: michelle.beaulieu@sfcta.org, maria.lombardo@sfcta.org

**Subject:** Public Comment for EPAC: Increase Paratransit Funding!

Dear EPAC members:

My name is Starr Wilson and I live in District 6 and I also am a member of the SDA Transit Justice committee.

I am writing to urge the EPAC to increase the allotment for Paratransit programs. To meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities, **the EPAC should include a minimum of \$220 million of Priority 1 funding and \$70 million of Priority 2 funding for Paratransit in the final Expenditure Plan it recommends to the SFCTA Board.** This would increase the Paratransit allotment from 8.6% to 11.2% of the total revenue. While this doesn't meet the original request of the Paratransit program staff, it is a good compromise, considering the competing pulls on this funding.

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Increasing costs to run these programs and increased demand require the City to set aside a larger percentage of sales tax revenue for Paratransit, which relies on this revenue for a substantial portion of its budget.

**Paratransit's costs have steadily increased since 2016, meaning that the current prop K allocation of 8.6% hasn't been meeting the program's needs.** Historically, Prop K funds have covered between 40% and 50% of Paratransit's costs. Unfortunately, due to rising program costs, Prop K funds have made up less than 40% of costs every year since 2016, reaching a low in FY 21/22 of covering only 32% of costs. SFMTA staff originally asked for the revenue from the sales tax renewal to cover 40% of program costs, which would equate to \$315 million. Understanding that there are many competing needs on the sale tax funding, we think that an allotment of \$290 million is a reasonable compromise.

**In addition to rising costs, the age of San Francisco's population is increasing, so demand for Paratransit services is going to increase.** Older adults are the fastest growing age group in the city. In 2010, 19% of San Franciscans were aged 60 or older. In 2030, it is expected that nearly 30% of San Franciscans will be 60 or older. Paratransit funding must be increased in order to meet future needs.

*My son just moved to Boise, Idaho where there is scarce any bus service with their elderly and disabled homebound for months at a time. I have also lived in Yucaipa, California where just getting to the VA hospital took me over two hours on their bus system. And then if I was 15 minutes late to an appointment, it was cancelled, which happened frequently because of the intermittent bus service.*

Thank you, in advance, for ensuring that the Expenditure Plan serves the needs of older adults and people with disabilities in San Francisco. San Francisco has a great bus system and it needs to stay that way. We want San Francisco's bus service to maintain its high standards and to remain a model for other cities to follow. Help us to achieve that by upping the funding so that our citizens' needs can be met!

Starr A. Wilson (she/her)  
(415) 583-7894  
[csr2462@gmail.com](mailto:csr2462@gmail.com)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Geraldine da Luz** <[geraldine\\_daluz@yahoo.com](mailto:geraldine_daluz@yahoo.com)>

Date: Thu, Feb 17, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Subject: Public Comment for EPAC: Increase Paratransit Funding!

To: [expenditureplan@sfcta.com](mailto:expenditureplan@sfcta.com) <[expenditureplan@sfcta.com](mailto:expenditureplan@sfcta.com)>

Cc: [cathy@sfcommunityliving.org](mailto:cathy@sfcommunityliving.org) <[cathy@sfcommunityliving.org](mailto:cathy@sfcommunityliving.org)>, [MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org](mailto:MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org) <[mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org](mailto:mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org)>, [dean.preston@sfgov.org](mailto:dean.preston@sfgov.org) <[dean.preston@sfgov.org](mailto:dean.preston@sfgov.org)>, [michelle.beaulieu@sfcta.org](mailto:michelle.beaulieu@sfcta.org) <[michelle.beaulieu@sfcta.org](mailto:michelle.beaulieu@sfcta.org)>, [maria.lombardo@sfcta.org](mailto:maria.lombardo@sfcta.org) <[maria.lombardo@sfcta.org](mailto:maria.lombardo@sfcta.org)>

Dear EPAC members:

My name is Geraldine da Luz and I live in District 5.

I am writing to urge the EPAC to increase the allotment for Paratransit programs. To meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities, **the EPAC should include a minimum of \$220 million of Priority 1 funding and \$70 million of Priority 2 funding for Paratransit in the final Expenditure Plan it recommends to the SFCTA Board.** This would increase the Paratransit allotment from 8.6% to 11.2% of the total revenue. While this doesn't meet the original request of the Paratransit program staff, it is a good compromise, considering the competing pulls on this funding.

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Muni is often crowded with people standing next to each other like sardines. If there is a seat available, it's right in-between two people (no empty seat in the middle).

Thank you, in advance, for ensuring that the Expenditure Plan serves the needs of older adults and people with disabilities in San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Geraldine da Luz  
Franklin & Ellis Streets



Maria Lombardo &lt;maria.lombardo@sfcta.org&gt;

## Public Comment for EPAC: Increase Paratransit Funding!

1 message

Helen Yu &lt;hyu@shanti.org&gt;

Sat, Feb 19, 2022 at 10:25 AM

To: "expenditureplan@sfcta.com" &lt;expenditureplan@sfcta.com&gt;

Cc: "cathy@sfcommunityliving.org" &lt;cathy@sfcommunityliving.org&gt;, "MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org"

&lt;MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org&gt;, "michelle.beaulieu@sfcta.org" &lt;michelle.beaulieu@sfcta.org&gt;, "maria.lombardo@sfcta.org"

&lt;maria.lombardo@sfcta.org&gt;, "Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org" &lt;Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org&gt;

Dear EPAC members:

My name is Helen Yu and I work for Shanti Project.

I am writing to urge the EPAC to increase the allotment for Paratransit programs. To meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities, **the EPAC should include a minimum of \$220 million of Priority 1 funding and \$70 million of Priority 2 funding for Paratransit in the final Expenditure Plan it recommends to the SFCTA Board.** This would increase the Paratransit allotment from 8.6% to 11.2% of the total revenue. While this doesn't meet the original request of the Paratransit program staff, it is a good compromise, considering the competing pulls on this funding.

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I work with clients that rely Paratransit for their daily lives. I hear many stories how there are long waits or their rides that cancel on them. I urge you to provide support and impact on their lives in a positive manner. This services provides so much autonomy for those that struggle with things a lot of people take for granted.

Thank you, in advance, for ensuring that the Expenditure Plan serves the needs of older adults and people with disabilities in San Francisco.

Best,

Helen Yu

Care Navigator  
Shanti Project | Pets Are Wonderful Support



Pronouns: she/ her

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Ph: 415.603.0691  
Fax: 415.979.9269

3170 23rd Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110

[www.shanti.org](http://www.shanti.org)





Maria Lombardo &lt;maria.lombardo@sfcta.org&gt;

## Fwd: Public Comment for EPAC: Increase Paratransit Funding!

1 message

**Faina Z** <faina4025@gmail.com>  
 To: [expenditureplan@sfcta.org](mailto:expenditureplan@sfcta.org)  
 Cc: Cathy DeLuca <cathy@sfcommunityliving.org>

Mon, Feb 21, 2022 at 10:25 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Faina Z** <faina4025@gmail.com>  
 Date: Thu, Feb 17, 2022 at 1:37 PM  
 Subject: Public Comment for EPAC: Increase Paratransit Funding!  
 To: <[expenditureplan@sfcta.org](mailto:expenditureplan@sfcta.org)>  
 Cc: Cathy DeLuca <[cathy@sfcommunityliving.org](mailto:cathy@sfcommunityliving.org)>, <[michelle.beaulieu@sfcta.org](mailto:michelle.beaulieu@sfcta.org)>, <[maria.lombardo@sfcta.org](mailto:maria.lombardo@sfcta.org)>, <[MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org](mailto:MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org)>, Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <[Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org](mailto:Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org)>

Dear EPAC members:

My name is Faina Zubovich and I live on Sutter St (at Larkin).

I am writing to urge the EPAC to increase the allotment for Paratransit programs. To meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities, **the EPAC should include a minimum of \$220 million of Priority 1 funding and \$70 million of Priority 2 funding for Paratransit in the final Expenditure Plan it recommends to the SFCTA Board.** This would increase the Paratransit allotment from 8.6% to 11.2% of the total revenue. While this doesn't meet the original request of the Paratransit program staff, it is a good compromise, considering the competing pulls on this funding.

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*As I am elderly, disabled, low income, Paratransit is a life saver for me, especially for doctors' appointments.*

Thank you, in advance, for ensuring that the Expenditure Plan serves the needs of older adults and people with disabilities in San Francisco.

Respectfully,  
Faina Zubovich.

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## Fw: Public comment for EPAC: Increase Paratransit Funding

1 message

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Iris Biblowitz <irisbiblowitz@hotmail.com>  
To: "clerk@sfcta.org" <clerk@sfcta.org>

Mon, Feb 21, 2022 at 11:16 AM

Sorry. The email I sent o 2/18 bounced back. Please see below.  
Thanks.

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**From:** Iris Biblowitz <irisbiblowitz@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 18, 2022 7:59 PM  
**To:** [expenditureplan@sfcta.com](mailto:expenditureplan@sfcta.com) <[expenditureplan@sfcta.com](mailto:expenditureplan@sfcta.com)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Public comment for EPAC: Increase Paratransit Funding

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**From:** Iris Biblowitz  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2022 7:16 PM  
**To:** [expenditureplan@sfcta.com](mailto:expenditureplan@sfcta.com) <[expenditureplan@sfcta.com](mailto:expenditureplan@sfcta.com)>  
**Cc:** Rafael Mandelman <[rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org](mailto:rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org)>; Chan, Connie (BOS) <[connie.chan@sfgov.org](mailto:connie.chan@sfgov.org)>; [matt.haney@sfgov.org](mailto:matt.haney@sfgov.org) <[matt.haney@sfgov.org](mailto:matt.haney@sfgov.org)>; Hillary Ronen, D9 Supervisor <[Jennifer.Li-D9@sfgov.org](mailto:Jennifer.Li-D9@sfgov.org)>; [dean.preston@sfgov.org](mailto:dean.preston@sfgov.org) <[dean.preston@sfgov.org](mailto:dean.preston@sfgov.org)>; [gordon.mar@sfgov.org](mailto:gordon.mar@sfgov.org) <[gordon.mar@sfgov.org](mailto:gordon.mar@sfgov.org)>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <[aaron.peskin@sfgov.org](mailto:aaron.peskin@sfgov.org)>; [shamann.walton@sfgov.org](mailto:shamann.walton@sfgov.org) <[shamann.walton@sfgov.org](mailto:shamann.walton@sfgov.org)>; Melgar, Myrna (BOS) <[myrna.melgar@sfgov.org](mailto:myrna.melgar@sfgov.org)>; [ahsha.safai@sfgov.org](mailto:ahsha.safai@sfgov.org) <[ahsha.safai@sfgov.org](mailto:ahsha.safai@sfgov.org)>; [catherine.stefani@sfgov.org](mailto:catherine.stefani@sfgov.org) <[catherine.stefani@sfgov.org](mailto:catherine.stefani@sfgov.org)>  
**Subject:** Public comment for EPAC: Increase Paratransit Funding

Dear EPAC members:

I'm a retired nurse, long-time tenant in District 9 of San Francisco. I've worked for many years with seniors and people with disability who depended on Paratransit. I see that because of increasing costs to Paratransit, the current budget and the allocation of Prop K funds are inadequate for Paratransit to respond to the needs of people with disabilities and the increasing population of seniors. It's predicted that by 2030, seniors will make up 30% of the population of San Francisco.

My experiences with clients that I've worked with (who had a wide variety of serious illnesses and disabilities) as well as friends, made me greatly appreciate the expanse of Paratransit services (getting to medical appointments, including social services, grocery shopping, pharmacies, as well as being able to visit family and friends). These services have decreased peoples' hardships, stress, and isolation.

As a nurse, I can tell you how stress and isolation and not having transportation can affect vulnerable people, but I can't tell you the nuts and bolts of the Paratransit budget. I do know that the Paratransit budget needs to be increased to avoid cuts to services. Please increase the allotment for these critical Paratransit programs.

I'm a MUNI rider, but after being hospitalized for emergency surgery, and after turning 75, I can see a day when I might need these services, too. And there are many more old people lining up behind me.

Thank you very much - Iris Biblowitz, RN





Maria Lombardo &lt;maria.lombardo@sfcta.org&gt;

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**Expenditure plan**

1 message

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**Richard Rothman** <rrothma@pacbell.net>  
To: "expenditureplan@sfcta.org" <expenditureplan@sfcta.org>

Mon, Feb 21, 2022 at 11:19 AM

Hello,

About the proposed items that should be in the November bond measure, I am opposed to giving any money to Caltrans for building an underground rail line from 3rd Street to the new terminal on Mission Street. Riders who take Caltrans and need to get downtown can switch trains in Millbrae to ride BART to Market Street.

This money needs to go to safety improvements in the City. There need to be more safety improvements to make it safer for people to walk in the City. There are projects in district one in outer Richmond that need to be done.

This funding can go to support these projects. San Francisco residents should feel safe in walking the streets of San Francisco. So use these funds for San Francisco's residence.

Best,  
Richard Rothman



## Please increase paratransit funding

1 message

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**Daveed Mandell** <daveedmandell@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 21, 2022 at 1:29 PM

To: expenditureplan@sfcta.org

To the members of EPAC:

Paratransit is a vital part of public transit for those who cannot ride muni buses or trains. It allows people with disabilities to remain active in their communities. Please support the increase in paratransit funding so that all paratransit services can continue to be offered.

Best regards,

Daveed Mandell  
Member, Board of Directors  
San Francisco Chapter  
California council of the blind

Sent from my iPhone