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## Public Comment for EPAC: Increase Paratransit Funding!

1 message

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'LARRY BUSH' via Expenditure Plan Group <expenditure-plan-group@sfcta.org>

Mon, Feb 21, 2022 at 3:38 PM

Reply-To: Larry Bush <sfwtrail@mac.com>

To: expenditureplan@sfcta.org

Cc: michelle.beaulieu@sfcta.org, maria.lombardo@sfcta.org, Larry Bush <sfwtrail@mac.com>, cathy@sfcommunityliving.org, MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org

Dear EPAC members:

My name is Larry Bush and I live in District 8.

My only way to get to my doctors health care is an ambulance unless I can use paratransit. I need a wheelchair, a walker and a companion. This has been my reality for 14 months after being hospitalized with a life threatening pulmonary embolism plus clots in my leg. I have home care attendants seven days a week.

Before these changes I could drive myself or have a friend drive my car. I have given up my car since I no longer will be able to drive.

As a city commissioner, I am expected to return to inperson meetings next month unless I have an exemption allowing for remote participation. I know this is an option even if allowed that can result in the kind of second-class status that disadvantages the disabled and seniors.

I am now establishing eligibility for paratransit services but I am aware that there is a list and a process that takes weeks just to be approved largely due to financial constraints.

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. This doesn't meet the original request of the Paratransit program staff and is a compromise. It would be better to match funding against actual need. Our city can afford that.

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 which has to overcome the opposition of some members of congress to meeting social service needs. 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.

**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.

Larry Bush  
[sfwtrail@mac.com](mailto:sfwtrail@mac.com)

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## Public Comment for EPAC: Increase Paratransit Funding!

1 message

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bts4birdie via Expenditure Plan Group <expenditure-plan-group@sfcta.org>

Mon, Feb 21, 2022 at 5:00 PM

Reply-To: bts4birdie@aol.com

To: "expenditureplan@sfcta.org" <expenditureplan@sfcta.org>

Cc: "cathy@sfcommunityliving.org" <cathy@sfcommunityliving.org>, "ChanStaff@sfgov.org" <ChanStaff@sfgov.org>, "Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org" <Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org>, "Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org" <Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org>, "Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org" <Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org>, "Dean.Preston@sfgov.org" <Dean.Preston@sfgov.org>, "Matt.Haney@sfgov.org" <Matt.Haney@sfgov.org>, "MelgarStaff@sfgov.org" <MelgarStaff@sfgov.org>, "MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org" <MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org>, "Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org" <Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org>, "Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org" <Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org>, "Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org" <Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org>

Dear EPAC members:

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

I just wanted to let you know that today I took the 36 from Forest Hill station opp, ID15245, and waited for over 35 minutes for that bus. Across the street at ID 15247 stop, I saw 3 bus number 36 go by before my bus finally arrived. I think more funding is needed to provide timely service for seniors through the Essential trip program so that we are not stuck waiting for a bus that is not on time. This was my second connection from the grocery store.

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

Byron Sakamoto

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## Public Comment for EPAC: Increase Paratransit Funding!

1 message

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**KATHY SETIAN** <ksetian@sbcglobal.net>

Mon, Feb 21, 2022 at 5:30 PM

To: expenditureplan@sfcta.org

Cc: DeLuca Cathy <cathy@sfcommunityliving.org>, MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org, maria.lombardo@sfcta.org, michelle.beaulieu@sfcta.org

Dear EPAC members:

My name is Kathy Setian and I live in District 8.

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

Sincerely,  
Kathy Setian





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## Increase Funding

1 message

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**'Juma Hui' via Expenditure Plan Group** <expenditure-plan-group@sfcta.org>

Mon, Feb 21, 2022 at 10:18 PM

Reply-To: Juma Hui <jumahui@yahoo.com>

To: "expenditureplan@sfcta.org" <expenditureplan@sfcta.org>

Cc: Cathy DeLuca <cathy@sfcommunityliving.org>

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to urge the EPAC to increase allotment for the Paratransit Program, for meeting the needs of older adults and the disabled. I am submitting this on behalf of the following seniors who live in District 7:

Lillie Wong  
Majorie Young  
Kathleen Jiang  
Dorothy Chang  
Dennis Hong  
Betty Wong  
Frances Gibbs  
Jade Chan  
Mercedes De Souza  
Charlotte Bierer  
Pearl Chang  
Juma Hui

Thank you for helping us.

P.S. We all ride the Muni often especially the 36 bus line and the S.F. Paratransit.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

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## Public Comment for EPAC: Increase Paratransit Funding

1 message

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**Tomoko Kobayashi** <tkmomo8@hotmail.com>

Tue, Feb 22, 2022 at 9:56 AM

To: "expenditureplan@sfcta.org" <expenditureplan@sfcta.org>

Cc: Cathy DeLuca <cathy@sfcommunityliving.org>, "MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org" <MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org>, "Catherin.Sefani@sfgov.org" <Catherin.Sefani@sfgov.org>, "Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org" <Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org>, "Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org" <Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org>, "Dean.Preston@sfgov.org" <Dean.Preston@sfgov.org>, "Matt.Haney@sfgov.org" <Matt.Haney@sfgov.org>, "MelgarStaff@sfgov.org" <MelgarStaff@sfgov.org>, "Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org" <Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org>, "Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org" <Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org>, "Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org" <Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org>, "maria.lombardo@sfcta.org" <maria.lombardo@sfcta.org>

Dear EPAC members:

My name is Tomoko Kobayashi 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.

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.

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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.

Tomoko Kobayashi

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## Public Comment for EPAC: Increase ParaTransit Funding

1 message

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**Marisol Ferrante** <marisol@ilrcsf.org>

Tue, Feb 22, 2022 at 11:21 AM

To: [expenditureplan@sfcta.org](mailto:expenditureplan@sfcta.org)

Cc: Cathy DeLuca <cathy@sfcommunityliving.org>, Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org

Dear EPAC Members,

My name is Marisol Ferrante and I live and work in District 3. I have a disability and use ParaTransit to go to work, as the Assistive Technology Educator at Independent Living Resource Center San Francisco.

ParaTransit has greatly improved since I first started using it. It used to be late a lot and had caused me to miss doctor's appointments and to be late to work. Now it's on time record is commendable. Due to increasing ridership, I'm afraid if funding for ParaTransit isn't increased, the service will return to being unreliable. For that reason, 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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Thank you, in advance, for ensuring that the Expenditure Plan serves the needs of older adults and people with disabilities in San Francisco.

Marisol Ferrante  
Assistive Technology Educator  
ILRCSF  
[825 Howard St](#)  
[San Francisco, CA 94103](#)  
628-231-2696

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

1 message

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**Katherine D'Amato** <kdamato@shanti.org>  
To: "expenditureplan@sfcta.org" <expenditureplan@sfcta.org>

Tue, Feb 22, 2022 at 1:33 PM

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**From:** Katherine D'Amato <kdamato@shanti.org>  
**Date:** Friday, February 18, 2022 at 4:25 PM  
**To:** "expenditureplan@sfcta.com" <expenditureplan@sfcta.com>  
**Cc:** "cathy@sfcommunityliving.org" <cathy@sfcommunityliving.org>, "MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org" <MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org>, "michelle.beaulieu@sfcta.org" <michelle.beaulieu@sfcta.org>, "maria.lombardo@sfcta.org" <maria.lombardo@sfcta.org>  
**Subject:** Public Comment for EPAC: Increase Paratransit Funding!

Dear EPAC members:

My name is Katherine D'Amato and I am the PAWS Director at Shanti.

I am writing to urge the EPAC to increase the allotment for Paratransit programs. I see clients every day who struggle to come see us for support, aren't able to reliably get to doctor's appointments or grocery visits, and are in desperate need of reliable timely paratransit services.

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

Warmly,

Katherine

Katherine D'Amato  
PAWS Program Director

Pronouns: she/her  
Shanti Project  
[3170 23rd Street](#)  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Phone: 415-625-5202  
Fax: 415-979-9269

[kdamato@shanti.org](mailto:kdamato@shanti.org)





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## Paratransit Funding

1 message

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**Anahid** <anaheeda10@gmail.com>  
To: expenditureplan@sfcta.org

Tue, Feb 22, 2022 at 1:56 PM

Dear decision-makers,

We have been helped tremendously by the use of the Paratransit taxi service during these times!

Please consider maintaining that service for seniors and the disabled at least for a while longer.

Thank you so much!

Sincerely,

Anahid

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

1 message

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Janet Tom <janet.tom@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 22, 2022 at 11:15 PM

To: expenditureplan@sfcta.org

Cc: Cathy DeLuca &lt;cathy@sfcommunityliving.org&gt;, MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, prestonstaff@sfgov.org, michelle.beaulieu@sfcta.org, maria.lombardo@sfcta.org

Dear EPAC members:

My name is Janet Tom and I live in District 5 at the St. Francis Square Co-op on Geary near the Buchanan YMCA. I recently retired as a librarian for the SF Public Library at the Main Library.

San Francisco's Paratransit program is important to me, because I use the Essential Trip Card, especially when I have a lot of groceries to take home. Also I am the facilitator of the Sunset branch book group. One of our members had a stroke and she uses Paratransit to get around. Before Covid, she used Paratransit to attend our book group meetings at the Sunset branch from her senior residence, which was on Geary near Masonic. One day, when our book group can meet again in person, I'm sure Esther will join us via Paratransit. She says it's a great service and she's very happy it helps her get around now that she's wheelchair-bound.

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

Sincerely,

Janet Tom

[85 Western Shore Lane #3](#)

[San Francisco CA 94115](#)

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

1 message

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**Bang Ngo** <bangxuanngo@gmail.com>  
To: expenditureplan@sfcta.org

Wed, Feb 23, 2022 at 11:40 AM

Dear EPAC members:

My name is Bang Ngo and I work with SEED-Students for Environment and Equity at De Anza .

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 am an Patient Access Representative Supervisor at Stanford Health Care Neuroscience Department and see the need and struggle of patients getting to their appointment and back home on a daily basis. The struggle of getting rides is getting harder and it's affecting the care that they need if no ride is available.

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

Bang Ngo  
SEED-Students for Environment and Equity at De Anza



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

From: **Kathy Abrahamson** <[KAbrahamson@lighthouse-sf.org](mailto:KAbrahamson@lighthouse-sf.org)>

Date: Wed, Feb 23, 2022 at 10:50 AM

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)>, [ChanStaff@sfgov.org](mailto:ChanStaff@sfgov.org) <[ChanStaff@sfgov.org](mailto:ChanStaff@sfgov.org)>, [Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org](mailto:Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org) <[Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org](mailto:Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org)>, [Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org](mailto:Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org) <[Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org](mailto:Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org)>, [Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org](mailto:Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org) <[Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org](mailto:Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org)>, [Dean.Preston@sfgov.org](mailto:Dean.Preston@sfgov.org) <[Dean.Preston@sfgov.org](mailto:Dean.Preston@sfgov.org)>, [Matt.Haney@sfgov.org](mailto:Matt.Haney@sfgov.org) <[Matt.Haney@sfgov.org](mailto:Matt.Haney@sfgov.org)>, [MelgarStaff@sfgov.org](mailto:MelgarStaff@sfgov.org) <[MelgarStaff@sfgov.org](mailto:MelgarStaff@sfgov.org)>, [Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org](mailto:Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org) <[Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org](mailto:Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org)>, [Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org](mailto:Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org) <[Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org](mailto:Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org)>, [Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org](mailto:Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org) <[Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org](mailto:Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org)>, SFCTA Board Chair Mandelman <[MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org](mailto:MandelmanStaff@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 Kathy Abrahamson, Director of Rehabilitation Services at the LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired. A majority of our blind and low vision students in particular, older adults, depend on the transportation services of Paratransit.

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.

The city needs to rise to the occasion in meeting the needs of seniors and people with disability to go about their lives independently by using Paratransit Services. Without full access to transit on a regular basis many of our students will be denied the equity others have in San Francisco to get to work, shopping, doctor's appointments, connecting with family and friends and participating in the events and pure joy of living in San Francisco. While the LightHouse trains student to use public transit on MUNI and BART, there are many who, due to concomitant health conditions cannot ride safely without some supports. Not increasing funding is just another insult to those San Franciscans who have lived and worked in the city for years, calling it home. The riders are neighbors, family, and friends of yours in this city, how can you decide to limit *their* access to their city?

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

Kathy Abrahamson  
Director, LightHouse for the Blind  
[kabrahamson@lighthouse-sf.org](mailto:kabrahamson@lighthouse-sf.org)

People who are blind or have low vision from all over the world are working on their 90 second YouTube video pitching their [Holman Prize for Blind Ambition](#) idea. Don't miss out! Applications are open now until March 20. What's your blind ambition?

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

From: **Naomi Cooper** <[naomi2cooper@gmail.com](mailto:naomi2cooper@gmail.com)>

Date: Thu, Feb 17, 2022 at 9:55 PM

Subject: from Ann Cooper (aka Naomi Cooper) / Paratransit Program

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

Cc: <[cathy@communityliving.org](mailto:cathy@communityliving.org)>, <[MandelmanStaff@sf.gov](mailto:MandelmanStaff@sf.gov)>,

<[michelle.beaulieu@sfcta.org](mailto:michelle.beaulieu@sfcta.org)>, <[maria.lombard@sfcta.org](mailto:maria.lombard@sfcta.org)>, <[Matt.Haney@sfgov.org](mailto:Matt.Haney@sfgov.org)>

Greetings to everyone, I want to thank you for offering the essential trip card for seniors. I am a long-time San Francisco resident, a retired public school teacher. I am 73 years old. The Essential Trip card has really helped me during these Pandemic times.

I hope that funding for the Paratransit program can be increased to a minimum of \$220 million of Priority 1 funding and \$70 million of Priority 2 funding for the Final Expenditure Plan recommended to the SECTA Board.

Currently Prop K funds only cover 32% of Paratransit funding, and obviously more than \$290 million is needed for Paratransit, but this smaller amount of money seems like a good compromise, since many different programs are competing for funding.

Older adults represent San Francisco's largest growing age group. Many of us have disabilities, and we're all particularly susceptible to Covid.

The Essential Trip card has enabled me to feel safer to shop and keep medical appointments during these years of Covid. I really hope that there will be a big investment in the Paratransit Program. Otherwise, many seniors are in danger of becoming homebound.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,  
Ann Cooper