



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bay Area Leaders and Transit Supporters Rally and Educate Commuters as Part of Regional Day of Action to Save Public Transit

Five-county mobilization reached voters during commute hours to explain importance of passing the Regional Transit Measure (RTM) to prevent catastrophic public transit service cuts

Coalition supporting RTM grows to more than 220 elected officials and 200 community, labor and business organizations

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA — Supporters of the Regional Transit Measure mobilized across the Bay Area on Thursday September 17 for a regionwide Day of Action, bringing together elected leaders, workers, businesses, and transit supporters to build support for the November ballot measure to protect the Bay Area's public transportation system.

Events took place throughout the day in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, with volunteers talking directly to voters at BART stations, transit hubs and other high-traffic locations about what is at stake for the Bay Area this November.

The Day of Action comes as the Regional Transit Measure continues to build one of the broadest coalitions in the region's history, with more than 220 elected officials and more than 200 community, labor and business organizations supporting the measure.

The Regional Transit Measure will provide dedicated funding to prevent catastrophic service cuts to BART, Muni, Caltrain, and AC Transit while investing in transit throughout the five-county region. Without new funding, Bay Area transit agencies face severe service reductions that would mean fewer trains and buses for riders, longer wait times, and more traffic for drivers on already congested roads and highways.

The catastrophic service reductions could include:

- **BART:** Service cuts of up to 70%, ending service at 9 p.m., up to 15 station closures, and elimination of two lines
- **Caltrain:** Hourly train service, no weekend service, and weekday shutdowns after 9 p.m.
- **Muni:** At least 20 bus routes eliminated and service reductions of 30% or more, regular service ending at 9 p.m.
- **AC Transit:** Service cuts of at least 16%

The measure also includes strong accountability requirements designed to ensure transit agencies use taxpayer dollars responsibly, improve efficiency and focus resources on providing safe, clean, reliable and convenient service for riders.

Throughout the Day of Action, supporters distributed campaign materials, recruited volunteers and spoke with riders and voters about the importance of protecting transit service.

****[Photos and Video of the Day of Action](#)****

Regional Day of Action events included:

- **Alameda County – 8:00 a.m. at Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland:** Supporters kicked off the day with speakers and a BART canvass at stations across Oakland and Berkeley. Attendees included State Senator Jesse Arreguin, and representatives from Alameda County Labor Council, Transform and Oakland Rising.
- **Santa Clara County — Noon, San José State University:** Students, community leaders and transit supporters held a rally and recruited volunteers to save Caltrain and expand service at VTA. Attendees included Assemblymember Patrick Aherns, Santa Clara County Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga, VTA Board

Chair Sergio Lopez, and representatives from SEIU and SJSU Young Democrats.

- **Contra Costa County — 4:30 p.m., Orinda BART Station:** Local leaders and volunteers gathered before canvassing BART riders. Attendees included Vice Mayor of Orinda Darlene K. Gee, Pleasant Hill City Councilmember Sue Noack, and representatives from the East Bay Leadership Council and SEIU 1021.
- **San Francisco — 5:00 p.m., Powell Street Cable Car Turnaround:** Elected officials, business, labor and transit leaders led a rally before volunteers fanned out to talk with BART and Muni riders and distribute campaign materials. Attendees included Mayor Daniel Lurie, State Senator Scott Wiener, San Francisco Supervisors Myrna Melgar and Chayenne Chen, Chamber of Commerce President Rodney Fong, and SEIU 1021 Bart Chapter President John Arantes.
- **San Mateo County — 5:00 p.m., Millbrae Transit Station:** Local leaders and supporters held a short program followed by voter outreach and volunteer recruitment. Attendees included San Mateo County Supervisors David Canepa and Noelle Corso, Redwood City Mayor Elmer Martinez-Saballos, San Bruno Mayor Rico Medina, and South City Councilmember Eddie Flores

The coalition supporting the Regional Transit Measure reflects the breadth of people and organizations that depend on a successful regional transportation system — including labor unions representing Bay Area workers, major employers and business organizations, environmental and transportation advocates, community organizations and elected officials from across the region.

The Day of Action marks the beginning of an intensified fall campaign focused on organizing volunteers, reaching voters and building on the coalition of elected officials and organizations already supporting the measure.

Connect Bay Area has assembled a broad regional coalition that brings together labor and business, transit riders and employers, environmental and community advocates, and elected leaders from across all five counties. The measure is backed by some of the Bay Area's most prominent federal, state and local leaders – including Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, Congressmen Sam Liccardo and Kevin Mullin, State Senators Scott Wiener and Jesse Arreguin, and Mayors Daniel Lurie and Barbara Lee — as well as mayors, county supervisors and city councilmembers throughout the region. Just as importantly, the coalition unites major labor organizations, businesses and civic groups in a mission to prevent devastating transit cuts while delivering safer, more reliable and accountable transit service.