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May 1, 2009

The Honorable Jackie Speier  
U.S. House of Representatives  
211 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: SamTrans Redi-Wheels Vehicle Expansion Funding Request**

Dear Representative Speier:

The San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), is requesting \$1,300,000 for Redi-Wheels paratransit vehicle expansion as a High Priority Project (HPP) to be included in the next surface transportation reauthorization bill. The funding will be used to procure (12) cutaway vehicles, allowing the District to meet growing demand for paratransit service in San Mateo County.

Paratransit is for persons with disabilities who cannot independently use regular SamTrans bus service some of the time or all of the time. The San Mateo County Transit District provides paratransit using Redi-Wheels on the bayside of the county and RediCoast on the coastside. The cutaway vehicles will each be able to accommodate three wheelchairs, and in many cases, will provide passengers with their only safe, reliable mobility option, allowing them increased independence and an ability to participate fully in the local economy.

This request would cover 100% of the project cost. In addition, this project will be subject to environmental review as required and will include full opportunity for public review and comment when considered by the District's Board of Directors.

Thank you again for your continued support of transportation improvements throughout the Bay Area. We appreciate all your efforts. If you have any questions please contact SamTrans Government Affairs Manager, Seamus Murphy, at [murphys@samtrans.com](mailto:murphys@samtrans.com) or (650) 508-6388.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "I. B. M." with a stylized flourish underneath.

Ian McAvoy  
Chief Development Officer

**SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT**  
1250 San Carlos Ave. – P.O. Box 3006  
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306 (650)508-6200

Office of Congresswoman Jackie Speier (CA-12)  
Member-Designated High Priority Project (HPP) Questionnaire  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: Friday, May 1, 2009 @ 9:00 p.m. (P.D.T.)**

Please submit this form along with any additional material to Cookab Hashemi, chief of staff via email at [Cookab.Hashemi@mail.house.gov](mailto:Cookab.Hashemi@mail.house.gov) or fax, 202/226-4183. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Cookab Hashemi at 202/225-3531.

**The questionnaire must be filled out in its entirety.** In addition, it must be accompanied by at least one letter of support from a state, regional, or local government official specifically supporting the project request. This letter should discuss the merits of the project; specify the process to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the project; and identify the other sources of Federal, state or private funding that will be used to complete this project or project phase.

The letter must contain an explicit statement of support for the project. In addition, if you are requesting less than 80 percent of the total estimated cost of the specific segment or activity, the letter must identify other specifically designated Federal, state, local or private funding sources that, combined with the Member request, equal at least 80 percent of the total estimated cost. Please use **BOLDFACE FONT** to highlight these statements in the letter.

All questionnaires and accompanying documents will be posted on the Congresswoman's website as required by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Lastly, all project requests will be evaluated before the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District's Citizens Oversight Panel. Appointments to appear before the panel must be made through Cookab Hashemi, chief of staff, at 202/225-3531 or [Cookab.Hashemi@mail.house.gov](mailto:Cookab.Hashemi@mail.house.gov). **The Citizens Oversight Panel meeting will be held on Monday, May 4, 2009.**

**1. Project Title:**

SamTrans Redi-Wheels Vehicle Expansion

**2. Organization (project sponsor) Name and Address:** *(if state or local entity, please identify specific department requesting funding)*

San Mateo County Transit District

3. **Primary contact name, phone, cell and fax numbers and email address:**

Seamus Murphy,  
office: 650/508-6388,  
cell: 650/207-9405,  
fax: 650/622-8084  
murphys@samtrans.com

4. **Project location address (if different from the organization):**

San Mateo County

5. **Please provide a brief description of the project. (Please describe in 250 words or less.)**

This project includes the purchase of 12 Redi-Wheels cutaway vehicles to expand the District's paratransit service. Each of these vehicles can accommodate three passengers with wheelchairs.

6. **What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District? (Please describe in 250 words or less.)**

Paratransit is for persons with disabilities who cannot independently use regular SamTrans bus service some of the time or all of the time. **SamTrans now operates 63 peak vehicles in the Redi-Wheels fleet and serves approximately 1000 trips each weekday.** As demand for these services continues to increase, the District will need to expand the size of its Redi-Wheels fleet to accommodate ridership growth. **The growth in the 65+ population of San Mateo County over the next ten years is expected to be 40%. A conservative estimate of the increase in persons with disabilities eligible to ride Redi-Wheels is half that, or 20%. That 20% increase applied to the peak vehicle fleet means 12 additional vehicles will be needed to meet demand over the next ten years.** Providing paratransit service adds to the diversity of San Mateo County's transportation options and provides a critical service to meet the unique mobility needs of persons with disabilities. These services allow a unique population to fully participate in the local economy and provide, for many, a service vital to their participation as members of the local workforce.

7. **Are you requesting Federal funds for more than one project in this bill? If yes, please list projects in order of priority requests for your organization.**

No.

8. Are you requesting funds from other Members of Congress? If yes, which Members?

No.

9. Please select which type of eligible project under Title 23 (Highways) or Chapter 53 of Title 49 (Public Transit) of the U.S. Code is the project request? Please select from the options below.

Transit Bus or Van.

- **FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY**
  - Highway/road, bridge, tunnel, bicycle/pedestrian project, intelligent transportation system project, ferry boats or ferry boats facilities, intermodal freight facility or other.
    - For each type of project, please note if it is located on a Federal-aid highway, located on the National Highway System, and located on the Interstate System.
- **PUBLIC TRANSIT** (Public transit refers to transportation services provided to the general public via a variety of vehicle modes, including buses, subways, light rail, commuter rail, monorail, passenger ferry boats, transit van pools, streetcars, inclined railways, and paratransit vehicles. Public transit does not include school bus or charter bus services, nor intercity passenger rail (such as Amtrak), high-speed rail, or private rail operations. For these types of rail projects, please proceed to the Rail section of the form.)
  - Passenger Vehicles
  - Transit Bus or Van
  - Transit Rail Car or Locomotive, including Streetcars
  - Transit Ferry
  - Transit Facilities
  - Vehicle Maintenance or Administration Facility
  - Passenger Facility, including Intermodal Facilities, stations, and terminals
  - Transit Rights-of-Way
    - Property Acquisition
    - Corridor Development
    - Rail Track Construction or Maintenance
    - Bus-only Lane Construction or Maintenance
  - Transit Equipment
    - Vehicle-related Equipment
    - System-related Equipment
  - New Start Project (A New Start project is a major new fixed guideway capital project seeking more than \$75 million in Federal funds.)

- Small Start Project (A Small Start project is a new fixed guideway capital project seeking less than \$75 million in Federal funds and with a total estimated net capital cost of less than \$250 million.)
- **RAIL**
  - Intercity Passenger Rail (Intercity rail passenger transportation means rail passenger transportation, except commuter rail passenger transportation. Commuter rail passenger transportation means short-haul rail passenger transportation in metropolitan and suburban areas usually having reduced fare, multiple-ride, and commuter tickets and morning and evening peak period operations. Intercity rail passenger transportation projects are not commuter rail projects. Funds for commuter rail projects should be requested under public transit, not under intercity passenger rail.)
  - Located within a corridor previously designated by the Secretary of Transportation pursuant to section 104(d)(2) of Title 23, United States Code, or the Northeast Corridor?
    - Freight Rail
    - Class I Freight Rail
    - Class II or Class III Freight Rail
- **RESEARCH**
  - University Transportation Center
  - Other

10. Did the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, or State Department of Transportation, <sup>1</sup> or public transit agency confirm that the project is eligible under Title 23 (Highways) or Chapter 53 of Title 49 (Public Transit) of the United States Code?

Yes.

San Mateo County Transit District  
 Seamus Murphy  
 Government Affairs Manager  
 650/508-6388

Chapter 53 of Title 49 (Public Transit)

- Which entity confirmed the project eligibility?



- Deploy
- Reconstruct
- Rehabilitate
- Replace
- Retrofit
- Install
- Mitigate
- Implement
- Realign

What is the total estimated cost? (Please write out in numeral form, e.g.

\$2,000,000, not \$2 million)  
\$1,300,000

What amount is being requested? (Please write out in numeral form.)

\$1,300,000

What percentage of the total estimated cost is the request for Federal funding?  
(If the percentage is less than 80%, please identify other specifically designated Federal, state, local or private funding that when combined with this request equal at least 80 percent.)

100 percent

Please identify the source and amount of funding.

**13. If you are requesting funding for a specific segment or activity, please describe the overall project of which this segment/activity is a part.**

Requested funding will allow the purchase of 12 additional vehicles to add to the paratransit fleet.

- Project description (please limit your response to 3-4 sentences.)
- Total estimated cost

**14. Is the project included in the State's Long-Range Transportation Plan?**

- Please provide the date of approval of the most recent version of the plan and the title of the plan.
  - *Date of approval (MM/YYYY)*
  - *Title of the plan*

No, but it is included in the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan  
Approved April 22, 2009  
Transportation 2035: Change in Motion

**15. Is the project included in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and/or State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)?**

No, project is not currently included in the TIP. We are also pursuing a competitive grant from FTA Section 5310 program to purchase 2 of the 10 vehicles needed. If successful, project will be amended into the TIP.

- Please provide the date of approval of the most recent version of the program(s), and the title of the program(s).
  - Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
    - *Date of approval (MM/YYYY)*
    - *Title of the Program*
  - State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
    - *Date of approval (MM/YYYY)*
    - *Title of the Program*

**16. If the project is an intercity passenger rail project, is it included in the State Rail Plan?**

- Please provide the date on which the Governor approved the most recent version of the plan, and the title of the plan.
  - *Date of approval (MM/YYYY)*
  - *Title of the plan*

**17. Please describe the current status of the project and the expected schedule for its completion.**

**In Planning**

- *Current status of project*

**Under Construction or Procurement**

- Federal-aid Highway projects:
  - In Planning
  - In Environmental Review
  - In Final Design
  - In Right-of-Way Acquisition
  - Under Construction
- Public Transit projects:
  - In Planning

- In Alternatives Analysis
  - In Preliminary Engineering
  - In Final Design
  - Under Construction or Procurement
  - Rail projects:
    - In Planning
    - In Environmental Review
    - In Preliminary Engineering
    - In Design
    - Under Construction
  - Research:
    - Under Research
    - Under Development
    - Under Demonstration
    - Under Deployment
- **What is the expected date of completion of the project for which you are requesting funding? (Between fiscal years 2010 through 2020)**

2017

18. **Does the project have regional or national significance?** (A project of regional and national significance is typically a high-cost transportation infrastructure facility that often includes multiple levels of government, agencies, modes of transportation, and transportation goals and planning processes that are not easily addressed or funded within existing surface transportation program categories. These projects have national and/or regional benefits, including improving economic productivity by facilitating international trade, relieving congestion, and improving transportation safety by facilitating passenger and freight movement.)
- *Please describe the regional or national significance of the project. Please limit your response to 3-4 sentences.*

No

19. **Describe the safety, economic development, mobility, and environmental benefits associated with completion of the project.**

- *Safety Benefits*
  - Please describe the safety benefits. Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences.

The District's paratransit program provides San Mateo County's disabled population with a safe and reliable mobility option. The procurement of these vehicles will allow the District to continue the delivery of this service by replacing older vehicles and to expand the service by increasing the size of the program's fleet, allowing the delivery of a safe transportation alternative to new Redi-Wheels customers.



- Amount of Funding      Amount Obligated
  - *Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) (P.L. 102-240)*
    - Section                      Project Number
    - Amount of Funding      Amount Obligated
  
- *Appropriations act(s)*
  - Public Law Name
    - Public Law Number
    - Section                      Project Number
    - Amount of Funding      Amount Obligated
  
- *Other legislation*
  - Public Law Name
  - Public Law Number
  - Section                      Project Number
  - Amount of Funding      Amount Obligated

**21. Has the project received any prior funding from a State, local, or private source?**

No.

- *Source:*
- *Amount of Funding:*
- *Amount Obligated:*

**22. Please provide the proposed legislative text (in no more than 250 characters) of the project as you would like it to appear in the bill. (Please note that project line items carry the force of law, and can only be amended through subsequent public laws. If Congressional intent (as established through answers listed on this form, or in letters to the Committee) is different from the legislative text, the entity administering the project is required to adhere to the statutory language.)**

Procurement of 12 Redi-Wheels cutaway vehicles to provide paratransit service throughout San Mateo County.

**23. Please include any additional information that should be considered with the project request.**