



San Mateo, Santa Clara and San Benito Counties

August 20, 2020

VTA Board of Directors
Elaine F. Baltao, Board Secretary
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Via email to: board.secretary@vta.org

Cc: State Route 85 Corridor Policy Advisory Board Member Rod Sinks: rodsinks@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Baltao and VTA Board,

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club supports new transit lanes on Hwy 85 with limited in-line stops and insist that the new lanes be dedicated to transit. Private buses should be able to use the lane and pay a toll to subsidize public buses. A few stops to efficiently load and unload passengers should be constructed to facilitate bus trips that are time-competitive with cars in the regular lanes; without them, buses will have to cross those regular lanes to get off the freeway, get to a stop and then get back on again, losing valuable time. Please secure additional money from discretionary federal funds to fully fund stations along the new transit lane.

We are in a climate emergency where scientific findings now show California's goal of a 40% reduction by 2030 is no longer sufficient to address the severity of the crisis. Bold action is required. Transit lanes on Hwy 85 will help VTA reduce their Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) under SB375. A successful development of dedicated bus/transit lanes on HWY 85, could lead to similar developments elsewhere in the bay area. Thus, this project could validate a technique to improve transit elsewhere.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gladwyn d'Souza". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Gladwyn d'Souza, Co-Chair, Conservation Committee, Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club

Cc: James Eggers, Executive Director, Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club

Gary Latshaw, Chair, Air Quality Committee, Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club