

July 25, 2025

Sue-Ellen Atkinson  
San Mateo County Transportation Authority  
1250 San Carlos Ave  
San Carlos, CA 94070

**RE: Support for the South San Francisco Advanced Signal Priority Transportation Demand Management Project**

Dear Ms. Atkinson:

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of South San Francisco's proposed citywide deployment of advanced traffic signal priority systems to improve emergency response times and transit service performance. These improvements are urgently needed to improve emergency response times and enhance the reliability and efficiency of public transit.

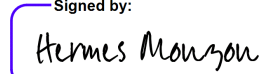
This project addresses critical needs in both public safety and sustainable transportation. Delays at signalized intersections can significantly impact emergency response times, and the consequences can be fatal. A national study across 2,268 counties found that longer EMS response times are associated with substantially higher motor vehicle crash mortality rates—up to 46% higher when response times exceed 12 minutes compared to under 7 minutes. In urban and suburban areas, more than 14% of crash-related deaths were attributable to prolonged response times. In Fremont, California, the City deployed similar emergency vehicle preemption (EVP) technologies and achieved dramatic improvements—reducing emergency response times through a key corridor from 47 minutes to just 13 minutes. These results show what's possible when modern signal operations are aligned with life-saving services.

Transit signal priority (TSP) is also essential to making public transit more competitive with driving. Intersection delay is a major contributor to unreliable bus service and longer travel times, which in turn discourages ridership and increases reliance on single-occupancy vehicles. Studies show that advanced signal priority systems can reduce average bus delay by more than 25 seconds per major intersection. This translates into improved on-time performance, faster travel times, and lower operating costs—creating the conditions necessary for a meaningful shift

toward transit use.

This project represents a high-impact, cost-effective strategy to achieve several of South San Francisco's transportation goals: improving emergency response, reducing transit delay, shifting trips away from single-occupancy vehicles, and supporting equitable access to mobility. By enhancing reliability and performance for transit and public safety vehicles, the City is investing in a smarter, safer, and more sustainable transportation system. We urge support for this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Signed by:  
  
05447F79E032425...

Hermes Monzon

Chairperson

South San Francisco Traffic Safety Commission