

**From:** VTA Board Secretary <Board.Secretary@vta.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 8:12 AM  
**To:** VTA Board of Directors <VTABoardofDirectors@vta.org>  
**Subject:** VTA Information: Bus Operator Assault

VTA Board of Directors:

Patrice Smith, Chief Communications Officer, has provided background information on an operator assault that occurred yesterday that has garnered local media attention. The attached memo addresses what took place.

Should you receive any media inquiries on this topic, please direct them to [Media.Relations@VTA.org](mailto:Media.Relations@VTA.org) or 408-464-7810 (no texts).


Thank you,

Office of the Board Secretary  
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority  
3331 North First Street, Building B  
San Jose, CA 95134-1927  
Phone **408-321-5680**



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** VTA Board of Directors

**FROM:** Patrice Smith   
Chief Communications Officer

**DATE:** August 20, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Bus Operator Assault Today

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There was an operator assault this morning that has drawn media attention following a social media post by the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department. I want to ensure you have the background on this unfortunate incident.

During the morning commute on Route 27 eastbound near Blossom Hill Road and Hillview Avenue in South San Jose, a bus operator was assaulted. The incident began when a passenger repeatedly rang the stop request cord. When the operator approached the passenger to address the behavior, an altercation occurred, and the operator was stabbed.

The Operations Control Center was contacted immediately, and a field supervisor along with Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the scene. The route was discontinued following the incident.

The operator sustained stab wounds but declined medical transport. He was treated at the scene and is currently recovering. A report was filed, and the operator was provided with information on support resources through the Employee Assistance Program.

The suspect fled the bus but was apprehended shortly afterward by the Sheriff's Department.

This incident was covered in the media this evening. Should you receive any media inquiries on this topic, please direct them to [Media.Relations@VTA.org](mailto:Media.Relations@VTA.org) or 408-464-7810 (no texts).

Thank you.

**From:** VTA Board Secretary <Board.Secretary@vta.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 22, 2025 3:56 PM  
**To:** VTA Board of Directors <VTABoardofDirectors@vta.org>  
**Subject:** VTA Correspondence: Week Ending August 22, 2025

**VTA Board of Directors:**

We are forwarding to you the following correspondence:

| From                              | Topic  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Jerry Cauthen                     | BART Phase II Comments                                   |
| Capitol Corridor                  | Partners United for Rail Safety Kick-Off                 |
| Planning Commission               | Agenda for the August 28, 2025 Meeting                   |
| Robert Padgette, Capitol Corridor | Capitol Corridor Service Disruption                      |
| Planning Commission               | Supplemental Information for the August 28, 2025 Meeting |

Thank you,

Office of the Board Secretary  
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority  
3331 North First Street, Building B  
San Jose, CA 95134-1927  
Phone **408-321-5680**



**From:** Cautn1  
**To:** VTA Board Secretary  
**Cc:** BoardofDirectors  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Message to VTA and BART Boards  
**Date:** Saturday, August 16, 2025 6:17:06 PM  
**Attachments:** Ltr to VTA Board Aug 16 2025.docx

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Dear Ms. Baltao,

Please forward this letter to Chair Sergio Lopez, Mayor Mahan and other VTA Board members.

Thank you,

Jerry Cauthen



August 16, 2025

Dear Chair Lopez, Mayor Mahan and Other Members of the VTA Board

Subject: BART Phase II: Status Report

There is much that the VTA and BART Boards are not hearing.

When the DEIS was released in December 2016, it described a twin-bore project costing \$4.9 billion in YOE dollars. When the FEIS was released in February of 2018, it showed a single-bore project costing virtually the same as the twin-bore option. The greatly understated single-bore price set forth in the FEIS is likely what convinced then Mayor Sam Liccardo to switch to the less controversial single-bore option.

In any event the real cost of a building a single-bore subway through downtown San Jose soon emerged. By the summer of 2023 the Biden Administration's Federal Transit Administration had established the official cost of the single-bore project as \$12.75 billion, 255% of the cost set forth in the FEIS just 5 years earlier. The VTA has since acknowledged that every month of delay increases costs by at least \$30 million. The ultimate price of the project has therefore almost certainly increased above the 2023 price.

Today the funds available to pay for the project, including the tentatively-offered \$5.1 billion in federal funding, are at least \$1 billion short, even if the price did remain at the figure established in 2023.

KST, the design consultant, when asked for its bid to build the project came in with a price roughly twice what the VTA was counting on, at which point the VTA decided to phase KST out of the program and instead rely upon the hope that as-yet unknown new bidders would significantly beat KST's number.

When Gall Zeidler, the consultant hired by the BART Phase II Oversight Committee to independently evaluate the design and cost of the project, came in with answers the VTA staff didn't like, it was necessary for the Oversight Committee to step in and block Staff's decision to also end GZ's services.

According to newspaper accounts, the VTA still estimates that its new subway will attract 55,000 riders a day. Yet this VTA figure was developed based upon conditions that existed pre-COVID. In its subsequent reports, the federal FTA puts the ridership figure at a more realistic 32,900 riders a day. Still needed are updated ridership projections based upon today's demographic conditions.

The VTA staff has been successively promising its Board for over a year that "in two months" it would provide the long-awaited cost savings. Yet the savings identified at last Thursday's Oversight Committee meeting still fall far short of what would be necessary. In view of the various design options still in play, the still open preliminary engineering questions at the Downtown and Diridon Stations, the still undefined safety measures needed to protect future BART riders in an emergency, and outstanding tunneling and muck-disposal elements, there is little chance that a legitimate BART Phase II cost estimate will become available any time soon.

Yet the project continues to plod ahead. To what end? It looks to us as if the San Jose subway project is heading toward an unmountable financial cliff.

*Gerald Cauthen*

Gerald Cauthen P.E.

Former Manager, Muni Metro Subway Program

Former Parsons Brinckerhoff Senior Engineering Manager and Transportation Vice President

President, Bay Area Transportation Working Group (BATWG)

**From:** Capitol Corridor VTA  
**To:** Board Secretary  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Partners United for Rail Safety Kick-Off - You're Invited!  
**Date:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 8:01:56 AM

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## Rail Safety Invite 2025



**August 21, 2025**

Join us as we kick off California Rail Safety Month with a day focused on rail safety, education, and partnership!

**REGISTER HERE**

**Date:** Wednesday, September 3, 2025

**Location:** Davis Station, 840 Second Street, Davis, CA, 95616

**Agenda:**

- 9:30 AM – 9:45 AM: Press Conference at Davis Station
- 10:55 AM – 11:56 AM: Travel from Davis to Martinez on Train 537
- 1:04 PM – 1:53 PM: Travel from Martinez to Davis on Train 532

**[RSVP by August 25, 2025](#)**

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**From:** Planning Commission  
**To:** Planning Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda: Planning Commission 8/28/25 Meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 2:16:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good afternoon,

The agenda and related materials for the August 28, 2025 meeting of the Planning Commission are now available online at:

[https://sccgov.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail\\_Meeting.aspx?ID=16774](https://sccgov.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=16774)

Members of the public may access the virtual meeting through the following link:

<https://sccgov-org.zoom.us/j/81908788900> (recommended) or by smart phone at (669) 219-2599, Meeting ID 8190 878 8900# (participant ID not required)

Please do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions.

Regards,

Peggy Doyle  
Deputy Clerk  
Clerk of the Board  
Santa Clara County  
East Wing, 10th Floor  
70 West Hedding Street  
San Jose, CA 95110

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**From:** Robert Padgette  
**To:** Mark Foley; Melissa Hernandez; Janice Li; Robert Raburn; Matthew Rinn; Edward Wright; Bruce Houdesheldt; Ken.Broadway; SuzanneJones; rdickinson; tschaefer; rbrewer; Patrick Kennedy; Melissa Lee; Sudhanshu Jain; sellcouncil; sbird\_fordixoncitycouncil; sbird\_dixonpd; sbird; Alma Hernandez  
**Cc:** cmoy; JChapman; lucas.frerichs; lucasf; mayra.vega  
Robert Franklin; Byron Toma; David Melko; mclic; aadams; JDrake; Gonzalez-Estay, Manolo R; Greene, Beverly; Daryl Halls; kgregana; Robert Guerrero; Autumn Bernstein; bvaughanbechtold; Robert Franklin; Jennifer Halpern; Sandra Schrimsher; Mag Tatum; Jeana Zelan; Robert Powers; Monique Salas; Michael Jones; Alfonso Rigel; Joseph Beach; Michaela Morales; tsmith; gkirbyson; DValdezJones; avan; afeeney; jlowe; mogaveror; mlee; mle; mcasoria; Baltao, Elaine; Garza, Michelle; VTA Board Secretary; Paris, Amy; jmasiclat; Iruiz; vjaimes; cgagnon; Tara.Thronson; emily.ault@yolocounty.org; michaelspelis; fudvarhely; Shane Edwards; Alicia Trost; Steven Shatz; Gradinger, Kyle; CCJPA Staff  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Capitol Corridor Service Disruption: Train 547 Trespasser Incident - Oakland, CA - August 20, 2025  
**Date:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 3:20:45 PM  
**Attachments:** CC Service Disruption - Train 547 Trespasser Incident Oakland Aug 20, 2025.pdf

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## MEMO



CAPITOL CORRIDOR  
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
2150 WEBSTER STREET  
3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR  
OAKLAND, CA 94612  
(V) 510.464.6995  
(F) 510.464.6901  
[www.capitolcorridor.org](http://www.capitolcorridor.org)

**To:** CCJPA Board Directors  
**From:** Robert Padgette, Managing Director  
**Date:** August 21, 2025  
**Subject:** Capitol Corridor Service Disruption: Train 547 Trespasser Incident – Oakland, CA

This memo is regarding a Trespasser incident that occurred on August 20, 2025, in the City of Oakland, CA.

### Incident Summary:

At approximately 7:20pm, train 547 struck and fatally injured a trespasser approximately three miles south of the Oakland Jack London Station. This incident did not occur on a public highway crossing at grade. Local police and fire responded to the scene along with Amtrak Police and Amtrak management. There were no initial reports of injuries to 53 passengers or crew, and no reports of damage to equipment. Passengers were afforded discounted items from café service, and the train was released after a 2-hour 35-minute delay. No other Capitol Corridor trains were impacted.

### Associated Train Delays:

547 – 2-hour 35-minute delay.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Leo Sanchez, Deputy Managing Director at [LeoS@CapitolCorridor.org](mailto:LeoS@CapitolCorridor.org).

  
Robert Padgette  
Managing Director

Rob Padgette  
Managing Director  
Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority Phone:  
510-464-6990  
2150 Webster St, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Oakland, CA 94612



## MEMO



**To:** CCJPA Board Directors  
**From:** Robert Padgette, Managing Director  
**Date:** August 21, 2025  
**Subject:** Capitol Corridor Service Disruption: Train 547 Trespasser Incident – Oakland, CA

**CAPITOL CORRIDOR**  
**JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**  
2150 WEBSTER STREET  
3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR  
OAKLAND, CA 94612  
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[www.capitolcorridor.org](http://www.capitolcorridor.org)

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547 – 2-hour 35-minute delay.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Leo Sanchez, Deputy Managing Director at [LeoS@CapitolCorridor.org](mailto:LeoS@CapitolCorridor.org).

  
Robert Padgette  
Managing Director

**Cc:**  
Robert Powers  
Jeana Zelan  
Chris Gan  
Bob Franklin  
Shane Edwards  
Alicia Trost  
Byron Toma  
Steven Shatz  
Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans Division of Rail and Mass Transit  
SCG Members

**From:** Planning Commission  
**To:** Planning Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Supplemental Information: Planning Commission 8/28/25 Meeting  
**Date:** Friday, August 22, 2025 2:26:11 PM  
**Attachments:** image001.png  
image002.png

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Good afternoon,

The following supplemental information has been added to the August 28, 2025 agenda:

**Item No. 6: Receive report from the Department of Planning and Development relating to the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for proposed Rural Zoning Amendments and Agricultural Impact Threshold.**

- Public Comment  **Supplemental Information**

The agenda and related materials, including the above supplemental information, may be viewed at:

[https://sccgov.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail\\_Meeting.aspx?ID=16774](https://sccgov.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=16774)

Members of the public may access the virtual meeting through the following link:

<https://sccgov-org.zoom.us/j/81908788900> (recommended) or by smart phone at (669) 219-2599, Meeting ID 8190 878 8900# (participant ID not required)

Please do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions.

Regards,

Peggy Doyle  
Deputy Clerk  
Clerk of the Board  
Santa Clara County  
East Wing, 10th Floor  
70 West Hedding Street  
San Jose, CA 95110

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**From:** VTA Board Secretary <Board.Secretary@vta.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 22, 2025 7:20 PM  
**To:** VTA Board of Directors <VTABoardofDirectors@vta.org>  
**Cc:** Gonot, Carolyn <Carolyn.Gonot@vta.org>; Maguire, Tom <Tom.Maguire@vta.org>;  
Smith, Patrice <Patrice.Smith@vta.org>  
**Subject:** From VTA: San Jose Spotlight Article

Board of Directors:

Please find attached a memo from Patrice Smith, Chief Communications Officer.

Should you receive any media inquiries on this topic, please direct them to  
[Media.Relations@VTA.org](mailto:Media.Relations@VTA.org) or 408-464-7810 (no texts).

Thank you,

Office of the Board Secretary  
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority  
3331 North First Street, Building B  
San Jose, CA 95134-1927  
Phone **408-321-5680**





## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** VTA Board of Directors

**FROM:** Patrice Smith   
Chief Communications Officer

**DATE:** August 22, 2025

**SUBJECT:** San Jose Spotlight Article

---

I am writing to share the [article](#) published this afternoon by *San Jose Spotlight*.

On Thursday, we received an inquiry from *Spotlight* regarding the August 15 letter from BART to VTA, which raised concerns about a lack of information sharing and notification on key changes to the BART Silicon Valley project. The reporter had a copy of the letter and sent us her questions for response. She also contacted BART directly.

We shared our responses with BART to ensure full transparency.

Should you receive any media inquiries on this topic, please direct them to [Media.Relations@VTA.org](mailto:Media.Relations@VTA.org) or 408-464-7810 (no texts).

Thank you.