

09 December 2003

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
3331 N. First Street
San José, CA, 95134-1906

San José State University
Attn: Eyedin Zonobi
Student Union, Room 235
San José, CA, 95192-0129

The Campus Community Association, a downtown/University area neighborhood association, supports the promotion of public transportation rider-ship to mitigate traffic and parking challenges inherent in a dense downtown core. As our name implies, our member residents are particularly interested in issues affecting San José State University area neighborhoods.

CCA supports SJSU in its proposal to raise the TAP pass rates from \$23 to \$30.

SJSU currently provides students with the Transit Access Program pass, supplying \$23 per pass to the VTA for a total of some \$700K annually. These funds are collected from all registered students, whether they utilize VTA services or not. Under this program, SJSU is the single largest VTA client.

VTA is now proposing to raise the TAP pass to \$40 per pass—an increase of nearly 75%—and mid-year at a time when student fees cannot be adjusted. This increase places the entire SJSU public transportation program at peril.

SJSU is counter-proposing to raise the TAP pass to \$30 per pass—still a significant increase of about 30%—allowing SJSU to make budgeting adjustments and continue the program. At \$30 per pass, the cost would be on par with the Echo pass, with rates at \$30/pass for employers/groups of 15,000 or more.

CCA supports the SJSU proposal, which is responsive to the VTA rate/revenue increases while keeping the transportation program solvent and active. SJSU is not just a client, but a partner with VTA. We ask that you consider the following:

- SJSU's 30,000 students' TAP pass rates should be comparable to ECO pass rates
- SJSU usage is largely "off-peak" from prime commuting hours, saving VTA money
- SJSU promotes VTA usage through direct marketing of its population, increasing ridership from 9% to 13%
- SJSU/VTA TAP is part of an overall program to reduce traffic and parking problems which would otherwise have a negative impact on area neighborhoods

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David Erickson
President, Campus Community Association