



SHAMANN WALTON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Watch the recording: <https://fb.watch/9EWYcu7aWq/>

PRESS RELEASE

SUPERVISORS SHAMANN WALTON & MATT HANEY JOIN COMMUNITY TO DEMAND THE SFMTA TO BRING BACK THE 8AX AND 8BX EXPRESS LINES

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Today, District 10 Supervisor Shamann Walton and District 6 Supervisor Matt Haney joined community leaders in Visitacion Valley to demand the San Francisco Municipal Transit Authority (SFMTA) to bring back the 8AX and 8BX Bayshore Express bus lines. The 8AX and 8BX express lines ran during peak commute hours in the morning and evenings connecting residents as far as City College to North Point (8BX) and from Visitacion Valley through the Portola to Chinatown (8AX). Both of these lines serve primarily working class residents and people of color living in the southern part of San Francisco who work near Downtown or Chinatown.

Over the past 20 months, the 8AX and 8BX express bus lines have been suspended due to the COVID-19 health emergency. Despite the SFMTA's restoration of Muni's core service, the 8AX and 8BX did not return. The 8AX starts at Geneva and Schwerin Streets at the border of the Visitacion Valley neighborhood and Daly City, travels through the Portola neighborhood along San Bruno Avenue, then on to the US-101 Freeway to the SOMA neighborhood and ending at Kearny Street and Pacific Avenue in Chinatown. The 8BX starts at the City College Terminal, travels through the Excelsior and Outer Mission along Geneva Avenue, through the Visitacion Valley neighborhood, then on to the US-101 Freeway to the SOMA neighborhood to Chinatown and North Beach before ending at Kearny and North Point Streets.

In the absence of the 8AX and 8BX during peak hours, the 8 Bayshore bus line runs through all of the combined stops of both express lines starting from the City College Terminal to Excelsior, Visitacion Valley, Portola, on to the freeway to SOMA, Downtown, Chinatown, and North Beach, making the trip from one end of the city to the other much longer during peak commute hours.



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Formerly known as the 9X/AX/BX Bayshore Express, the route was renamed to the 8X/AX/BX Bayshore Express in 2009 and the 8X Bayshore Express was renamed to the 8 Bayshore in 2015. Over the last 30 years, many residents from the Chinese community living in the southeast part of San Francisco have historically fought to preserve these lines to maintain a direct connection from southeast neighborhoods to Downtown and Chinatown. According to The Wind Newspaper quoted in the [October 19, 2021 issue](#), “an estimate of at least one third of the workforce in Chinatown live in the southeast neighborhoods of Visitacion Valley and Portola” as well as in the Bayview and Silver Terrace neighborhoods.

Members of the community gathered today with Supervisor Walton and Supervisor Haney at the Bayshore Boulevard and Blanken Avenue 8BX stop, a significant stop for the 8BX line as it is the last stop in Visitacion Valley before the 8BX goes on the US-101 Freeway connecting to the SOMA neighborhood, then Chinatown, before reaching its final destination at North Point, to demand the SFMTA bring back both of these lines during peak commute hours.

“We have heard from many residents from Visitacion Valley that they want the 8AX and 8BX to return during the peak commute hours and we have elevated this issue to the SFMTA leadership every week at our bi-weekly meetings,” said Board President Shamann Walton, Supervisor of District 10. “The SFMTA has given us a timeline of the 8AX and 8BX returning this winter but now that has been delayed to March or April. This is unacceptable for a community that heavily relies on these lines to connect to Downtown and Chinatown and we are going to continue to fight to bring these lines back as soon as possible.”

“The 8AX and 8BX are vital Muni lines for the Chinese community. Not only does it connect residents in Visitacion Valley and Chinatown, it runs through the heart of District 6 where many Chinese seniors live in affordable supportive housing,” said District 6 Supervisor Matt Haney. “These busses are the only option for them to access grocery stores and services in Chinatown. If our transit restoration is centered around equity, then these two lines must be prioritized.”

“We've been talking about racial equity and ensuring our most vulnerable communities don't get left behind,” said Queena Chen, Co-Chair of Chinatown Transportation Research



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and Improvement Project. “Now it’s a chance for SFMTA to do something about an issue they have control over. Safe and reliable public transportation increases one's well-being by providing access to medical services, economic opportunities, and education opportunities. To ensure the wellbeing of the residents in the South Eastern neighborhoods, we need the 8A/BX restored now.”

“Visitation Valley is in the middle of a food desert and our community, many of whom are low-income and have no other means of transportation, rely on the 8AX/8BX lines,” said Rex Tabora, Executive Director of the Asian Pacific American Community Center (APACC). “They travel across the city to Chinatown in order to access lower priced groceries and these same folks also use these lines to go to work in service industries such as the restaurant and hotels. We desperately need these lines of transportation to feed our families and connect residents to access services in this neighborhood and Chinatown.”

“San Francisco Transit Riders believes that transit justice, such as we are demanding for here today, can really enable the Visitation Valley and Portola communities to continue their resistance to the long-standing discriminatory impacts of racism and classism,” said Interim Executive Director Vinita Goyal of the San Francisco Transit Riders. “Today we stand in solidarity with the Visitation Valley and Portola communities in reclaiming this city to its full potential and not get excluded from it yet again.”

In early November, a community petition urging the return of the 8AX and 8BX lines as well as increased public safety due to the xenophobic attacks on Asians during the pandemic was submitted to the Board of Supervisors and the SFMTA Board of Directors. Over 28 organizations, small businesses, and community leaders have signed the petition, including the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, API Council, and the River of Life Church.

The SFMTA has cited staff shortages due to the City vaccine mandate and budgetary restrictions as the reasons preventing the return of the 8AX and 8BX lines.

The SFMTA will be having a Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, December 7 at 1:00PM to discuss the next round of Muni service restoration. The public is encouraged to participate remotely at <https://www.sfmta.com/calendar/board-directors-meeting-december-7-2021>. For interpretation services and language assistance, please call 415-646-4470, 48 hours in advance of



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the meeting. Para servicios de interpretación gratuitos, por favor haga su petición 48 horas antes de la reunión 415-646-4470. / 如果需要免費口語翻譯, 請於會議之前48小時提出要求, 請打電話到415-646-4470。 / Para sa libreng serbisyo sa interpretasyon, kailangan mag-request 48 oras bago ang miting 415-646-4470.

District 10 encompasses the Visitacion Valley, Little Hollywood, Bayview, Hunters Point, Dogpatch, and Potrero Hill neighborhoods. District 6 encompasses the South of Market (SOMA), Tenderloin, Downtown, Treasure Island, and Mission Bay neighborhoods.

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