



SHAMANN WALTON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 18, 2022

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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

****SUPERVISOR SHAMANN WALTON & SFMTA ANNOUNCE THE RETURN OF
THE 8AX & 8BX BAYSHORE EXPRESS MUNI LINES****

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – On Monday morning, District 10 Supervisor Shamann Walton joined SFMTA Director Jeff Tumlin, Director Sharon Lai of the SFMTA Board of Directors, and community members to announce the return of the 8AX and 8BX Bayshore Express muni lines on weekdays as part of the next phase of the 2022 Muni Service Network plan. The return of these express lines will help reduce travel times to downtown and Chinatown for residents of Visitacion Valley, Potrero and other south-side neighborhoods.

Over the past two years, the 8AX and 8BX express bus lines have been suspended due to the COVID-19 health emergency. The 8AX and 8BX express lines will run 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.

Members of the Visitacion Valley and Chinatown community gathered today with Supervisor Walton and SFMTA Director Jeff Tumlin at the Bayshore Boulevard and Blanken Avenue 8BX stop announcing the return and riding the 8BX line directly to Chinatown. The Bayshore Boulevard and Blanken Avenue stop is a significant stop for the 8BX line because it is the last stop for 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.

“Over the past two years, 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 are excited that these



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two express lines are finally returning,” said Shamann Walton, District 10 Supervisor and Board President. “The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the City in many ways but especially our District 10 neighborhoods with working class residents who have struggled with commutes getting to their essential jobs. The return of both of these express lines provide key connections between our southern neighborhoods to Downtown and Chinatown.”

“Public transportation is a lifeline for many—especially for those with the fewest options. And, it’s a keystone to San Francisco’s recovery,” said Jeffrey Tumlin, SFMTA director of transportation. “We are grateful for the leadership and support of Supervisor Walton and our community partners. As we bring back more and more Muni service, we are paying close attention – as we have throughout the pandemic - to where the greatest equity needs are. I am proud that we are able to return this key express service joining the north- and southeast sections of our city.”

“I am thrilled to have supported the return of the 8AX/BX, which serves a critical connection between Chinatown and the Visitacion Valley neighborhoods as well as others,” said Sharon Lai, member of the SFMTA Board of Directors. “Several communities of concern rely on this route and I’m glad we pushed to find the resources to restore it.”

“On behalf of Chinatown TRIP, we would like to thank Supervisor Walton and Director Tumlin for bringing back the 8AX/BX line in a timely manner,” said Jonathan Hee, member of Chinatown TRIP. “This is a vital connection for folks living in the southeast part of the city who work in the small businesses and hospitality jobs in Chinatown, North Beach, and Financial District. Over one-third of workers in Chinatown live in the south eastern neighborhoods.”

“The COVID 19 pandemic has devastated Chinatown because it limited access to the community's goods and services,” said Aaron Peskin, District 3 Supervisor. “The 8AX and 8BX are also lifelines to the small business community and will help jump start Chinatown's local economy by bringing back the people that keep it alive.”

“Visitacion 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



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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 and we are happy that these lines are finally back.”

“I am thankful for Supervisor President Shamann Walton, businesses, and community organizations like Chinese Chamber, Rose Pak Community Fund, Asian Pacific American Community Center, Self Help for the Elderly, Chinatown Merchants United of SF, CYC and others for advocating for this critical transit lifeline connecting the Chinatown to Visitacion Valley, Portola and Outer Mission,” said Malcolm Yeung, Executive Director of the Chinatown Community Development Center. “Many Chinese residents on the east side of the city depend solely on these express lines for work, schools, and daily errands like doctor appointments, picking up senior meals or kids from schools, or visiting temples. Our Chinese Muni riders expressed fear of going out due to anti-Asian attacks and robberies due to longer wait times at bus stops or walking too far to and from bus stops. In addition, many small businesses along the express routes depend on adequate muni services. The restoration of 8BX and 8AX lines are a much needed service to address our community needs.”

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. Inbound service will begin at 6:00 a.m. until approximately 9:30 a.m. and outbound service will start from approximately 3:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.. Passengers traveling in the opposite direction during these times must use the 8 Bayshore.

In addition to the return of the 8AX and 8BX, the 56 Rutland line also returned to Visitacion Valley today, which runs from Candlestick Cove to Visitacion Valley Middle School. District 10 encompasses the Visitacion Valley, Little Hollywood, Bayview, Hunters Point, Dogpatch, and Potrero Hill neighborhoods.

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