

From: [Rafael Menis](#)
To: [Comment](#)
Subject: Comment for Agenda item 7D, Council Requests for Future Agenda Items, 3-21-2023 meeting
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 6:58:12 PM

***** EXTERNAL MESSAGE *****

To the City Council and citizens of Pinole,

I ask that the Council place a future agenda item no later than April 30th to discuss a letter to our State representatives in support of state funding for transit agencies, such as WestCAT. A majority of California transit agencies including SFMTA, BART, Caltrain, AC Transit and other agencies, are heading toward a daunting fiscal cliff as federal COVID relief funding runs out while ridership regrows more gradually. This operating funding shortfall could lead to deep cuts to transit service, potentially triggering a spiral of decline with closed stations, infrequent service, and no weekend transit.

There is a draft proposed letter that covers the main points, and can be adjusted by staff and the council as they see fit. It reads as follows-

"

Dear Chair Senator Skinner, Chair Assemblymember Ting, and Assemblymember Wicks

As FY 2023-24 budget negotiations continue, Pinole strongly urges you to strengthen California's economy, increase job access for all, reduce traffic congestion, clean our air, and decrease climate change emissions by prioritizing a multi-year funding package for transit agencies across California to prevent severe service cuts, adapt to changing travel patterns and regrow ridership.

COVID fundamentally changed how people in our community and all Californians live, work, and travel for their daily needs. Ridership continues to recover across the State and although agencies are responding to the changing needs of their communities as quickly as possible, it may be years before many agencies are financially stable again.

Transit agencies across the state are on the brink of collapse and unless state lawmakers step in and save California's transit agencies, services will be cut, stations will be shuttered, and more Californians will be forced off of transit and into already clogged, polluting, and expensive highways — or simply be stranded without access to vital jobs, services and community connection that they currently access through transit.

Whether or not they use transit, all Californians depend on healthy transit systems. Every person on a bus or train is one less car on the road competing for parking and increasing wear & tear on the state's costly highway system. Public transit is essential to California's economy and to the everyday lives of millions of Californians.

Without state funding to address their budget shortfalls, transit operators across California will be forced to implement drastic service cuts that will send public transit into a death spiral and lead to irreversible disinvestment in an essential public utility. Rising fares and degraded service will cause transit ridership to fall dramatically across the State, which will further decrease transit agencies' revenue. This will further starve transit agencies, and routes and services will be cut across California. In other words, if the State takes no action, declining public transit ridership will reverse the State's investments in an integrated, multimodal transportation network that builds off of our existing infrastructure.

Millions of Californians rely on public transportation to access work, school, and other destinations each day. Slashing public transit service would exacerbate poverty throughout California substantially reducing access to jobs, education and healthcare for low-income Californians.

Additionally, supporting and expanding transit cleans our air and helps the state meet its climate goals. While California has made strides on reducing other climate change emission sources, tailpipe emissions and other local air pollutants from gas and electric cars exacerbate poor air quality which causes [thousands of premature deaths](#) in California each year. California cannot be a climate leader without robust public transportation, and allowing our transit systems to fall into disarray would run entirely contrary to our climate goals.

We must save public transportation in California. Our state depends on it and we look forward to working with you to build a more prosperous, secure, and clean California for all by ensuring that transit agencies receive the emergency funding and ongoing investment they need.

Sincerely,

Mayor and City Council of the City of Pinole"

I believe that a strong public transit system is vital to creating healthy communities and an equitable, economically vibrant and climate friendly future. I appreciate your attention to this matter. Sincerely, Rafael Menis, resident of Pinole

From: [kristen Pursley](#)
To: [Comment](#)
Subject: Comment on Agenda Item 9e for 03/21 meeting
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 7:17:54 AM

***** EXTERNAL MESSAGE *****

Greetings Pinole City Council,

My name is Kristen Pursley. I am a resident of Pinole, an adult education teacher, and a member of Older Adults Education Forever, a grassroots group in support of educational opportunities for seniors. First, let me wish you a happy Adult Education Week! I would like to thank you for considering writing a letter in support of state funded education for Older Adults at this very appropriate time. The State of California has adopted an ambitious and forward looking Master Plan for Aging, but the goals of the Master Plan cannot be met without educational opportunities for seniors. Opportunities to learn in community are not a frill for seniors, they are vitally important for promoting health and well being. Unfortunately, educational programs for seniors in California are shrinking, not growing. In 2013, the state made a very short-sighted decision to defund state-funded adult school programs for seniors that had been in place since 1950. Most cities in California lost services then, including Pinole. Community Colleges retained the ability to offer state-funded programs for elders, but most do not. Contra Costa College does not. And Community Colleges that did offer robust programs for seniors, like City College of San Francisco are cutting back. Why? Because the state gave a clear signal, by cutting off funding for adult school programs, that it does not value education for older adults. We need to reverse this trend, so thank you so much for considering a letter to the state regarding this matter.

Kristen Pursley

From: [Cynthia Eagleton at work](#)
To: [Comment](#)
Subject: In support of state funding for Older Adults Adult Education
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 9:17:01 AM

***** EXTERNAL MESSAGE *****

Dear Pinole City Council Members,

Thank you for considering writing a letter of support to regain state funding for Adult Education for Older Adults.

When Adult Ed was restructured, mistakes were made - as often happens in the midst or wake of a crisis.

Providing education for older adults strengthens not just the elder population but the entire community. I know this as a former teacher of Older Adults classes (when they were state funded), as a long time advocate for Adult Education, and very importantly, as the caregiver daughter to my 88 year old mom.

My mom takes classes through one of the few remaining Older Adults Adult Ed programs - offered by San Mateo Adult School. These classes provide her with learning and connection which strengthens her health which makes a huge and positive impact on our family. I live with my mom and daughter - we are a multi-generational household. When my mom is healthy, life is easier and better for all of us!

I know that I'm not the only multi-gen household out there. In fact, I predict that as our culture copes with Climate Change, there will be more and more of us. We need to find ways to share resources, housing --- and health!!

I hope the pandemic has helped us learn that health is not a solely individual event. We are all inter-connected. My health - good or bad - affects everyone around me.

Understanding that our elders are part of the community and that others rely on them - for advice, support, childcare, and knowledge - is not something modern culture is very good at -- but I think and hope that is beginning to change.

I hope you will write a letter of support for a return of state funding for these important programs.

Sincerely,

Cynthia

Cynthia Eagleton

adultedsustainability.com

[UC Cal Nat Climate Steward](#)

[Adult Education Matters](#)