



# SB 434

## Public Transit for All: Improving Safety & Increasing Ridership

Senator Dave Min, 37th District

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### SUMMARY

California's public transit systems provide a crucial service to local communities. Unfortunately, studies show that many women (trans and cisgender) and other vulnerable communities experience harassment while using transit services.

This measure will require California's 10 largest transit operators to gather and publish qualitative and quantitative ridership data regarding street harassment as riders wait at transit stops and ride transit vehicles. This is a critical first step in addressing and preventing street harassment of women and other vulnerable communities on public transit.

### BACKGROUND

Though the Unruh Civil Rights Act requires transit operators to provide each person full and equal accommodations, women and other vulnerable communities are often unable to access public transit safely due to street harassment, which can include unwanted sexual and racialized comments and slurs, whistling, leering, and other intimidating actions.

According to a 2019 statewide study by the University of California San Diego Center on Gender Equity and Health, 77 percent of women experience sexual harassment in a public space, including 29 percent on mass transit.

Since March 2020, the Stop AAPI Hate coalition has received nearly 11,500 reports of hate incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) from across the country. Almost 50 percent of incidents took place at public venues, including streets, parks, and on transit. In addition to AAPIs, Black women, Latina women, women of

color, people with disabilities, the LGBTQ & TGI communities, and the young and elderly also experience street harassment on transit.

Many transit operators have not investigated the role of street harassment on their systems and how street harassment prevents equal access to transportation. As transit operators look to increase ridership, efforts to protect rider safety, including the prevention of street harassment on transit, can be a critical tool in rebuilding rider trust and patronage.

### THIS BILL

To promote safe ridership, this bill requires the top 10 transit operators in California to:

- Collect qualitative and quantitative ridership data regarding street harassment as riders wait at transit stops and ride transit vehicles, and publish this data on their websites;
- Conduct outreach activities with riders who are underrepresented in surveys yet impacted by street harassment so that all voices are heard; and,
- Utilize the community survey developed by the Mineta Transportation Institute pursuant to SB 1161 (Min) to collect ridership data, if desired.

### SUPPORT

Stop AAPI Hate (sponsor)  
AAPI Equity Alliance  
ACLU California Action  
African Advocacy Network  
Alliance for Girls  
APEX Express  
API Council of San Francisco  
API Forward Movement  
Asian American Pacific Islander Coalition  
of the North Bay

**SUPPORT (cont'd)**

Asian Americans in Action  
Asian Law Alliance  
Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center (APADRC)  
Asian Pacific American Women Lawyers Alliance (APAWLA)  
Asian Pacific Community Fund  
Asian Pacific Environmental Network  
Asian Youth Center (AYC)  
AYPAL: Building API Community Power Bay Area Council  
CAIR California  
California Association of Human Relations Organizations (CAHRO)  
California Chamber of Commerce (Cal Chamber)  
California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs  
California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative  
California Transit Association  
Cambodia Town Inc.  
Center for Asian Americans in Action  
Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment (CAUSE)  
Center for Leadership, Equity, and Research (CLEAR)  
Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco  
Chinese for Affirmative Action  
Chinese Progressive Association  
City and County of San Francisco  
City and County of San Francisco, Department on the Status of Women  
City and County of San Francisco, Office of Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP)  
City of Los Angeles  
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto  
Consumers for Auto Reliability & Safety  
Contigo Communications  
Costa Mesa Alliance for Better Streets  
County of Los Angeles  
Disability Rights California  
East Bay La Raza Lawyers Association  
Educating Marissa, LLC  
El/La Para TransLatinas  
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities  
Equal Justice Society  
Ethnic Media Services  
Food Empowerment Project  
Food for People  
Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA)  
Hmong Innovating Politics  
Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective  
Japantown Task Force  
Justice in Aging  
Korean American Center  
Korean American Coalition - Los Angeles  
Korean American Federation of Los Angeles  
Korean Community Center of the East Bay  
Korean Community Services  
LA Metro  
LA Raza Community Resource Center  
MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana  
Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project  
National Pacific Islander Education Network  
NICOS Chinese Health Coalition  
North East Medical Services (NEMS)  
Oakland Lacrosse Club  
OCA - Sacramento Chapter  
Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA)  
Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA)  
Pacific Asian Counseling Services  
People Organizing to Demand Environmental & Economic Rights  
San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART)  
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA)  
San Francisco Senior & Disability Action  
San Francisco Transit Riders  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
Self-Help for the Elderly  
Silicon Valley Asian Pacific American Democratic Club  
SOMA Pilipinas  
South Asian Network  
Southeast Asian Community Center  
Southeast Asian Development Center  
Streets Are For Everyone (SAFE)  
Streets For All  
Thai Community Development Center  
The Betti Ono Foundation  
The Unity Council  
The Women's Building

**SUPPORT (cont'd)**

TransForm  
Tranzito  
University of California Student Association

Women's Foundation of California  
Wu Yee Children's Services  
Youth Against Hate  
YWCA Berkeley Oakland

**OPPOSITION**

None on File

**STAFF CONTACT**

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