



News from Congressman

Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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FOR INFORMATION CALL
Lynne Weil (202) 225-6735

Lantos Announces Major Infusion of Federal Funds For Peninsula, San Francisco Transportation Projects

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo/San Francisco) today announced federal grants of more than \$31 million that will help improve road, rail and air transportation on the Peninsula and in San Francisco.

“As our region continues to attract more visitors and people wishing to work and live here, we need to be mindful of our increasing transportation needs,” Lantos said. “These federal funds will help ensure that traveling to and through our communities remains safe, efficient and hassle-free.”

The largest part of the new funding is a \$24 million payment to local officials for the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) extension to San Francisco International Airport (SFO). The 8.7-mile, four-station extension brings BART service from the Colma Station to the airport and the city of Millbrae. Lantos has led the Bay Area Congressional delegation in its efforts to obtain \$567 million to date for this project through the Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Authority.

An additional \$5.7 million from the Transportation Department will be now available to rehabilitate runway lighting and the runway surfaces at SFO. This is in on top of the \$10,107,000 in federal grants that Lantos announced last month for runway improvements at SFO and at the San Carlos Airport.

And finally, \$1,987,000 in federal funds will go to the City and County of San Francisco for its Municipal Transportation Agency (Muni) system. This will support an Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system that lets passengers know where their buses are, and what time they will arrive. The tracking information is available via cell phone, the Internet and illuminated signs on bus shelters. Muni is the country’s 7th-largest transit provider; it operates light rail, trolleys, diesel buses, cable cars and historic rail vehicles.

“Transportation is crucial to the economic health of the Peninsula and San Francisco,” Lantos said. “Obtaining the necessary federal support for such large-scale projects takes sustained effort. But thanks to Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, who worked diligently with me to ensure this support, it becomes well worthwhile when big grants such as these come through.”

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