

**move** bay  
area

# Transportation, Climate, and Health South Bay Summit

**Friday, December 5th, 2025**

San José State University  
Student Union, Meeting Room 4

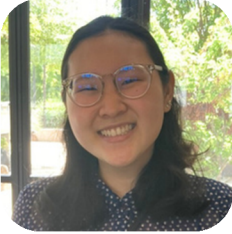


# Program

8:30 - 9:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 - 9:15 AM	What is Move Bay Area?
9:15 - 9:20 AM	Welcome by Kendra Chang
9:20 - 10:25 AM	Morning Panel - Regional Vision
10:25 - 10:35 AM	Rod Diridon - Looking Back to Moving Forward
10:35 - 11:45 AM	Group Discussions & Share-outs
11:45 - 12:35 PM	Lunch
12:35 - 12:50 PM	Calls to Action
12:50 - 1:55 PM	Panel - South Bay Solutions & Successes
2:00 - 2:40 PM	Keynote Q+A - Senator Dave Cortese
2:45 - 3:00 PM	Evaluation Survey



# Welcome by



**Kendra Chang**

President, SJSU  
Student Public Health  
Honor Society Club

**Kendra Chang** is a 4th-year student at San José State University, majoring in Public Health and minoring in Biological Sciences. She is the President of the Public Health Honor Society, which is a student organization focused on academics and community service. Last semester, she interned at the California Department of Public Health in the Climate Change and Health Unit, where she gained experience in communications and outreach. Through her internship, she learned how climate change-related conditions affect human health, particularly among vulnerable populations. In the future, Kendra hopes to work in health policy.

# Moderated by



**Ann Cheng**

Ann Cheng  
Consulting

**Ann Cheng** is a consulting planner specializing in equitable transit-oriented development, parking reform, and community engagement. She currently serves on regional and local consultant benches for MTC TOC Policy Planning and Equity, VTA TOD, and SFMTA and CCTA strategic communications, helping cities align parking policies with regional transit investment goals and adopt people-centered mobility strategies. Ann founded [GreenTRIP.org](https://www.greentrip.org) to advance low-traffic, low-parking housing through data and market-based tools now used across California. A former mayor and nonprofit executive, she brings a practitioner's perspective to advancing sustainable, inclusive communities.



**Cherie Barnett**

Program Coordinator  
Silicon Valley  
Bicycle Coalition

**Cherie Maria Barnett** is a bicycle advocate who brings experience from Sonoma County to her work in San Jose at the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition. Formerly the Outreach and Event Coordinator for the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition, she now applies her skills in community organizing, program coordination, and volunteer engagement to support local cycling initiatives. Cherie leads the Bike to Wherever Days program, supports adult cycling education, and helps organize outreach events across the region. She also serves as a key point of contact for members and volunteers, strengthening connections within the cycling community and advancing safer, more accessible biking for people of all ages and abilities.



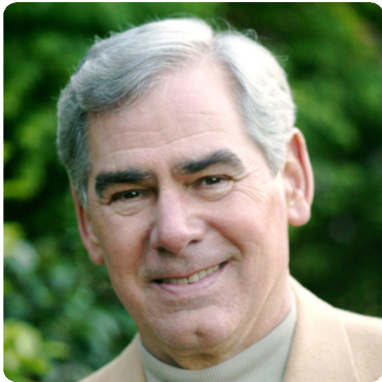
## Keynote Speaker



**Senator  
Dave Cortese**  
CA-15

**Senator Dave Cortese** represents District 15, which encompasses much of Santa Clara County in the heart of Silicon Valley. Along with his accomplished career as an attorney and business owner, the Senator previously served on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, the San Jose City Council, and the East Side Union High School District Board. Dave's business involvement includes his early agricultural role as principal in his family farm (wholesale and retail fruit and produce), cattle ranch, and other organizations, all of which are thriving businesses today.

## Looking Back to Moving Forward



**Rod Diridon, Sr.**  
Chair Emeritus  
California  
High Speed Rail

**Rod Diridon, Sr.**, served as executive director of the Mineta Transportation Institute from 1993 to 2014 and is widely known as the father of modern transit in Silicon Valley. He has chaired more than 100 transportation and environmental programs and frequently provides legislative testimony on sustainability. Appointed by Governors Davis and Schwarzenegger, he is chair emeritus of the California High-Speed Rail Authority Board and a past chair of the American Public Transportation Association. He has also led national and international organizations including the Council of University Transportation Centers, the U.S. High Speed Rail Association, and UITP in Brussels. A former elected official, he chaired the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the Bay Area's three regional agencies; San Jose Diridon Station is named in his honor. He now leads Rotary Climate Action Councils and holds multiple lifetime achievement awards.



# Panelists *Visionary Transportation, Climate, & Health*



**Padma Balaji**

Co-Chair  
Bay Area  
Youth Climate Summit

**Padma Balaji** is a senior at Mission San Jose High School and a Co-Lead of the Tri-City Action Team, where she advocates for climate literacy in education and policy. She's also involved in youth climate justice organizing as the Co-Chair of the Bay Area Youth Climate Summit and President of her school's Youth4Climate Club. As an avid public transit user and former Research Assistant for the Mineta Transportation Institute, she's passionate about community-driven solutions and advocating for more equitable transportation infrastructure.



**Sheri Burns**

Executive Director  
SV Independent  
Living Center

**Sheri Burns** is the Executive Director of the Silicon Valley Independent Living Center, a nonprofit cross-disability multi-cultural justice, advocacy and service agency in Santa Clara County. Sheri has been active in independent living services within the disability community her entire adult life, and currently focuses on systems change advocacy and safe, affordable, and accessible housing and transportation. Before her work at the SV Independent Living Center, she also served as the Executive Director at Community Resources in Alameda County for nine years. Sheri holds a Bachelor's in Occupational Therapy at San José State University.



**Clarrissa Cabansagan**

Executive Director  
Silicon Valley  
Bicycle Coalition

**Clarrissa Cabansagan** is the Executive Director of the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC), leading efforts to build healthier, more just communities by making bicycling safe and accessible for all in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. She previously served as Policy Director at TransForm, advancing equitable transportation and housing solutions, including efforts to improve first/last mile connections to transit and low-income access to shared mobility. Earlier in career, she organized bus riders against service cuts with the Oakland-based Urban Habitat and the Los Angeles Bus Riders Union. Clarrissa holds a Master's in Urban Planning from UCLA and a Bachelor's in Ethnic Studies with a minor in City and Regional Planning from UC Berkeley.

# Panelists *Visionary Transportation, Climate, & Health*



**Sergio Lopez**  
Chair of VTA/  
Mayor of Campbell

**Sergio Lopez** joined the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Board of Directors in 2023 and was elected Board Chairperson in late 2024. As the youngest Board Chair in the history of VTA, Sergio brings a personal understanding of public transit, having used the VTA transit system growing up. Sergio Lopez has also served on the Campbell city council since 2020 and was elected as Mayor in 2024. His leadership emphasizes accountability, transparency, and a strong commitment to improving transportation for Santa Clara County residents and visitors. He is also a Director on the Bay Area Air District, where he played a key role in advancing the regional electrification efforts. Sergio is currently pursuing his MBA at UC Berkeley and a Master of Legal Studies at UCLA.

## *Steering Committee Thanks*

Move Bay Area Summits cannot happen without our local and regional Steering Committee members. Heartfelt thanks to Move Bay Area South Bay's Steering Committee: **Cherie Barnett, Ann Cheng, Christine Fitzgerald, Christopher Lepe, Rebecca Long.**



## Panelists

## South Bay Solutions & Successes



**Sara Barz**

Transportation Product  
Manager, Apple /  
SeamlessCA  
Co-Founder

A transportation planner by training, **Sara Barz** is a product manager for transit payments and ticketing at Apple. Prior to joining Apple, Sara worked at MTC and co-founded Seamless Bay Area. Sara earned a master's degree in City and Regional Planning from UC Berkeley in 2015. She currently serves as the District 7 representative on the San Francisco County Transportation Authority Community Advisory Committee. In 2024, Mass Transit magazine recognized Sara as a 40 under 40 transit professional.



**Pat Burt**

Palo Alto  
City Councilmember /  
MTC Commissioner

Professionally, **Pat Burt** was an entrepreneur in sustainable manufacturing and environmental policy leader at regional, state and national levels on the California EPA Pollution Prevention Task Force, the California Comparative Risk Project, the California Environmental Technology Partnership, Sustainable San Mateo County, and the Santa Clara County Pollution Prevention Committee. He has served on the Palo Alto City Council for 14 years, including three terms as mayor. Pat led the adoption of the city's 100% Carbon-neutral Electricity, "8030" Goal' of 80% GHG reduction by 2030, and carbon neutrality by 2030. He previously served on the board of the BCDC, is currently a board member on VTA, Caltrain, and MTC.





## Panelists

## South Bay Solutions & Successes



**Daniela Castañeda**

Emerging Mobility  
Community  
Engagement Lead,  
City of San Jose

**Daniela Castañeda** is the Emerging Mobility Community Engagement Lead at the City of San José Department of Transportation. In this role, she spearheads the design and implementation of emerging mobility pilot programs in disadvantaged communities. Daniela uses a trauma-informed community engagement approach, creating safe and inclusive spaces for the most vulnerable populations to share their stories, ensuring their voices are central to the planning process. Currently, Daniela is leading the City of San José ¡Bikeshare En Mayfair! expansion project, funded by the Clean Mobility Options Program and the East San José Mobility Equity Project, and supported by the Sustainable Transportation Equity Project.



**Raashi Sachdeva**

Safe Routes to School  
Representative  
Cupertino High School

**Raashi Sachdeva** is a senior at Cupertino High. She has been an avid biker since elementary school and is passionate about increasing the usage and accessibility of active modes of transportation. Through Safe Routes to School, a Cupertino City program, Raashi has organized and led initiatives that promote safe, alternative modes of transportation within the high school community. Raashi's team has secured funding from 6 grants over the last 4 years to sustain the programs they offer. Notable events that she has successfully led include Don't Drive for Donuts, Dr. Bike, and Bike Bus.



**Raj Singh**

President and  
Business Agent  
ATU Local 265

**Raj Singh** is the President and Business Agent of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 265, representing their membership for more than a decade. With a career at VTA beginning in 2008, he spent 12 years as a Coach Operator before moving into leadership roles. His work is driven by a deep commitment to transit workers, public transportation, and labor rights.

# Our Partners

*We are grateful for the below partners who helped spread the word of this summit to the people they serve.*



Our mission is to build a grassroots climate movement in the Bay Area and beyond to eliminate carbon pollution and achieve a clean energy future with racial, economic, and environmental justice.



Friends of Caltrain is a nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to promoting and enhancing Caltrain services and public transit in the Bay Area through community engagement, education, and policy initiatives.



The Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) at San Jose State University serves to increase mobility for all by improving the safety, efficiency, accessibility, and convenience of our nation's transportation system.



San Francisco Transit Riders (SFTR) is a rider-supported nonprofit focused on advocating for a better, greener, and more equitable public transportation system in San Francisco.



Our mission is to transform the Bay Area's fragmented and inconvenient public transit into a world-class, unified, equitable, and widely-used system by building a diverse movement for change and promoting policy reforms.



Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action (SVYCA) empowers teens and young adults to combat climate change immediately through impactful education and policy initiatives.



Transbay Coalition is a grassroots public transportation advocacy group championing bold near-term solutions to the Bay Area's regional transportation crisis.



Act Now Bay Area mobilizes volunteers to meet critical needs across the region, partnering with trusted nonprofits to advance equity, justice, and resilience for communities impacted by poverty, displacement, and systemic barriers.



Joint Venture Silicon Valley is a neutral, nonpartisan, cross-sector think tank convening the region's leaders around the Valley's most pressing challenges.



Corporations have too much power in our society. Richmond Progressive Alliance addresses this imbalance by harnessing grassroots volunteers, local leaders, and resources to help working people get a seat at the table.



Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition's mission is to build healthier and more just communities by making bicycling safe and accessible for everyone.



Silicon Valley Independent Living Center (SVILC) values every person's right and desire to live in fully integrated communities of their choice, with equitable access to support and services.



The WTS San Francisco Bay Area chapter was founded in 1981 as a chapter of WTS International, and attracts, sustains, connects, and advances women's careers to strengthen the transportation industry.



Move Bay Area brings together transportation, climate, and health leaders with the community to discover commonality and regional solutions to our transportation challenges with the goal of shaping a regional transportation vision.

Find more information at [movebayarea.org](http://movebayarea.org).

## *Let us know how we did!*

Scan the following QR code to give us feedback. You can also fill out the evaluation survey on the next page.

**SCAN HERE**



**[tinyurl.com/southbaysummit](http://tinyurl.com/southbaysummit)**



# Evaluation Survey

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you hear about this event? Select all that apply.**

<input type="checkbox"/> Move Bay Area email	<input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Caltrain
<input type="checkbox"/> MTC	<input type="checkbox"/> SV Climate Youth Action
<input type="checkbox"/> 350 Bay Area	<input type="checkbox"/> SF Transit Riders
<input type="checkbox"/> Seamless Bay Area	<input type="checkbox"/> Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
<input type="checkbox"/> Act Now Bay Area	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Venture
<input type="checkbox"/> Transbay Coalition	<input type="checkbox"/> WTS
<input type="checkbox"/> SV Independent Living Center	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mineta Transportation Institute	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> SJSU Public Health Honor Society	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Richmond Progressive Alliance	_____

**What is your top takeaway from today’s event?**

**What can be done to improve future events?**

**What other transportation topics that bring the region together would you like to be covered in future events and would attend?**

# Our Sponsor

*Huge thanks to our sponsor of this regional transportation event.*



**METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION**

The **Metropolitan Transportation Commission** is the Bay Area's regional transportation planning, coordinating and funding agency and works to advance shared local and regional priorities for transportation, housing, and the environment. [mtc.ca.gov](http://mtc.ca.gov)

# Room Sponsor



The **Public Health Honor Society (PHHS)** at San José State University is an honor society that acknowledges and awards undergraduate Public Health students for academic excellence and passion in Public Health.

[sjsuhs2.weebly.com](http://sjsuhs2.weebly.com)

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