

Contact Stacey Hendler Ross <u>Stacey.HendlerRoss@VTA.org</u> 408-307-2922 August 10, 2022

VTA Chips Away at Operator Shortage

(17 More Bus Operators Graduate Training Program)

SAN JOSE, CA – Seventeen new bus operators will graduate an intensive 9-week program ready to help fill a chronic shortage of operators at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA). The graduation will take place **Wednesday**, **August 10**, **2022**, **at VTA's Chaboya Bus Division**, **beginning at 11 a.m.**

VTA has recently augmented efforts to recruit drivers, increasing the number of training classes offered to fill driver shortages that affect the level of transit service VTA can provide. The agency is chipping away at the shortage, with 70 vacancies in November 2021, reduced to 40 vacancies currently.

The new graduates are also participating in an 18-month apprenticeship program which allows them to earn 18 college credits from Mission College as they work.

Three of the new bus operator graduates have plans to enter VTA's Light Rail Operator training program, a job which is also experiencing a shortage of operators.

News media is invited to attend the graduation at VTA Chaboya Division, 2240 S 7th St., San Jose beginning at 11 a.m. Wednesday, August 10, 2022.