



Media Contact: Stacey Hendler-Ross
(408) 307-2922
Stacey.Hendlerross@vta.org

October 5, 2022

**16 New Bus Operators to Provide More Transit Service in Santa Clara County.
(Frequency Of Buses and Light Rail to Increase)**

A new class of 16 Bus operators is joining the VTA Family. They are graduating from a 9-week training program and are ready to hit the streets, filling openings that will allow our agency to soon increase the frequency of public transit service within county lines.

Among the graduates are four women, including two operators who are returning to VTA after having worked here in the past and moved to another job outside the agency.

Employees receive significant medical, dental, and vision benefits and something that no other agency offers: **18 Credits from Mission College** that allows them to start or continue a college education and a professional development program with promotional opportunities.

Bus Operators' salaries at VTA are higher than other transit agencies in the Bay Area that are also struggling to hire drivers. On top of the hourly rate, that can earn up to \$40 an hour within 3 years of joining, plus overtime. In addition, VTA offers paid training, enabling trainees to obtain a California Class B Commercial license.

The new graduates are a crucial part of VTA's **2023 Transit Service Plan** that aims to restore full service to pre-pandemic levels. At the same time, efforts to recruit more operators continue.

VTA's goal is to increase the frequency of service by the end of October on light rail, with 15-minute headways and extended hours of bus service early next year.

The graduation ceremony is open to news media.

When: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 @10:00 am

Where: Chaboya Training Center located at 2240 S 7th St, San Jose, CA

About VTA

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is an independent special district that is responsible for bus, light rail, paratransit operations, transportation planning, and serves as the county's congestion management agency in Santa Clara County. VTA is building the 16-mile extension of BART into Silicon Valley with 6 stations, including a cutting-edge single-bore tunnel through Downtown San Jose.