



January 11, 2022

David Rabbitt, Chair, MTC Programming & Allocations Committee  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Bay Area Metro Center  
375 Beale Street, Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

**RE: Programming & Allocations Committee Item 3a: OBAG3 Framework - County Transportation Agency Comments**

Dear Chair Rabbitt,

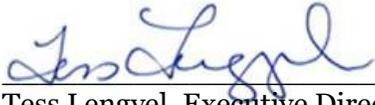
We would like to start with appreciation for the spirit of partnership with which MTC staff developed the framework for Cycle 3 of the One Bay Area Grant program (OBAG3), in cooperation with staff from the nine Bay Area County Transportation Agencies (BACTA). Our staffs have been working together for many months to come to agreement on the framework for this important program, and we are supportive of the proposal being presented to the Programming & Allocations Committee this month.

To highlight some of the areas of agreement: we support the continuation of many of the policies put in place for prior cycles of OBAG; transportation investment is a long game, and consistent policies and funding levels help all of us bring programs and projects to fruition over time. The CTAs are also glad to see that some emerging needs are being woven into the program as well, such as Climate Resilience and Road Safety. Additionally, we support that the County and Regional programs are equal partners with 50-50 shares of the overall program. We are also pleased that within the County programs, there is still a locally-based element of the project selection process; the funding from OBAG3 is an important tool for implementing the local transportation improvements that advance Plan Bay Area and is often used in combination with local sources to deliver priority projects and programs. Having the ability for CTAs to work with MTC staff to identify local priorities is critically important.

In addition, we look forward to working with MTC to develop the Regional Programs over the coming months, including current discussions on active transportation and transit-oriented development, and identifying how Priority Conservation Areas, Priority Production Areas, and multimodal corridor planning can fit into the proposed framework or be supported with complementary funds. Our agencies are deeply involved in these efforts locally and would like to see continued support for them in OBAG3. We also look forward to better understanding how the expected increased funding levels from the recently-signed federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (IIJA/BIL) will supplement the OBAG3 program once the region's IIJA/BIL funding shares are known.

While the last few years have brought major changes to the transportation landscape, the region continues to have ambitious goals and large investment needs, needs that can only be met by solid and creative partnerships and predictable funding streams. We look forward to continuing to work together on OBAG and other programs.

Sincerely,



Tess Lengyel, Executive Director  
Alameda County Transportation Commission



Tilly Chang, Executive Director  
San Francisco County Transportation Authority



Tim Haile, Executive Director  
Contra Costa Transportation Authority



Sean Charpentier, Executive Director  
City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County



Anne Richman, Executive Director  
Transportation Authority of Marin



Deborah Dagang, Chief Planning & Programming Officer  
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority



Kate Miller, Executive Director  
Napa Valley Transportation Authority



Daryl Halls, Executive Director  
Solano Transportation Authority



Suzanne Smith, Executive Director  
Sonoma County Transportation Authority

cc: Therese McMillan, Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Alix Bockelman, Deputy Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Theresa Romell, Director Funding Programs & Policy, Metropolitan Transportation Commission