



July 25, 2022

Ms. Therese McMillan  
Executive Director  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Bay Area Metro Center  
375 Beale Street, Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

Dear Therese,

I'm writing to communicate my appreciation for MTC's support of the US 101 Express Lane corridor in the Senate Bill 1 Solutions for Congested Corridors (SCC) program. However, I also need to express my frustration with the exclusion of the South Bay's express lanes from Regional Measure 3 (RM3) Express Lane funding.

As you are aware, VTA's US 101 Express Lane Phase 5 "Air to Aerospace" project continues the region's express lane system on US 101 from the current terminus at NASA (SR-237) to I-880 and the San Jose Mineta International Airport. Pre-pandemic, this was one of the most congested freeway segments in the Bay Area. This project has immense value as a means for managing congestion and throughput in the heart of Silicon Valley and generating revenue to continue and enhance transit services in the Equity Priority Communities through which it passes.

While we are appreciative that MTC staff has proposed the project for nomination in this fall's SB1 Solution for Congested Corridors program, I am concerned and frustrated that this project, and that of the rest of the South Bay's express lane program, have not received any RM3 funding. Discussions about RM3 only include a subset of eligible applicants.

Santa Clara County voters were essential to passing RM3. Santa Clara County's express lanes are clearly written into the RM3 Express Lane program. VTA has been very active in the development and management of the regional express lanes program. When prior decisions allocating \$235 million of the \$300 million in RM3 Express Lane program category were made, VTA staff communicated expectations of financial participation in the remainder of the funds. VTA has kept MTC staff apprised of program development in multiple venues, with the most recent update in May 2022. It has been clear for some time that VTA has two segments needing construction funding by 2023.

Therese McMillan, Executive Director Metropolitan Transportation Commission

MTC's support of the US 101 Express Lane Corridor in the Senate Bill 1 Solutions for Congested Corridors (SCC) Program

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It is disappointing when MTC staff alerted VTA staff that all remaining RM3 funding had been promised to the I-680 Forward Project without any type of process to determine how the remaining RM3 funds would be distributed. It is unacceptable to the residents and voters of our county that Santa Clara County would not receive a significant share of RM3 – especially for a project of such regional importance, and that MTC expects VTA to refrain from pursuing specific competitive alternative funding sources. Moving forward, it is imperative that RM3 funds be distributed through an equitable and transparent process consistent to what was promised to voters.

In light of the near and future actions by BAIFA and MTC regarding regional express lanes and RM 3 funding, VTA requests that MTC staff work in coordination to prioritize and develop a funding plan for the next two phases of the Silicon Valley Express Lane network. VTA remains eager to see this happen and looks forward to working with you and your team to deliver these much-needed projects.

Sincerely,



Carolyn M. Gonot  
General Manager/CEO

cc: Margaret Abe-Koga, VTA Board Member, Ex Officio  
Cindy Chavez, VTA Board Member  
Sam Liccardo, VTA Board Member