

Metropolitan Transportation Commission

April 22, 2026

Agenda Item 11b - 26-0553

Senate Bill 1375 (Cortese): Diridon Station Environmental Streamlining

Subject:

Expedites Diridon Station project delivery by exempting the project from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, provided the project complies with certain provisions.

Background:

MTC Chair Noack and Joint MTC-ABAG Legislation Committee Chair Carlson exercised MTC's emergency procedure to convey MTC's support for Senate Bill (SB) 1375 (Cortese) – which exempts the Diridon Station program of projects from CEQA – in advance of the bill's April 15 hearing in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee. At the time this memo was finalized, the bill provides a targeted CEQA exemption solely for the Diridon Station program of projects.

At the Senate Environmental Quality Committee hearing, Senator Cortese accepted committee-proposed amendments to strike the Diridon Station-specific CEQA exemption and instead create a new category of CEQA exemptions for a public urban, intermodal rail station within the statewide passenger rail network, at which high-capacity light, commuter, and intercity rail services converge that meets specified criteria.

The Diridon Station program of projects would be eligible for this new categorical exemption. As a planned recipient of federal funds, the project will still undergo review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

Recommendation:

Support

Discussion:

The remaking of Diridon Station represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to deliver a fully integrated, multimodal transportation hub that will support more passengers and connections than any other station in Northern California. As outlined in the California State Rail Plan, the modernized station will seamlessly connect regional, statewide, and local transit systems,

including BART Silicon Valley Phase II, Caltrain, ACE, Capitol Corridor, California High-Speed Rail, VTA light rail, and local and intercity bus services. MTC is a Diridon Station partner.

SB 1375 expedites Diridon Station project delivery while maintaining full compliance with other environmental laws and permitting requirements. This approach avoids redundant review, reduces project delivery risk and ensures this infrastructure investment can move forward in a timely and cost-effective manner. For these reasons, MTC Chair Noack and Joint MTC-ABAG Legislation Committee Chair Carlson approved staff conveying MTC's support position on the bill; this item requests the Commission's support of that position.

Known Positions:

Support:

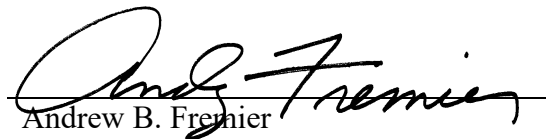
City of San Jose (Sponsor); Bay Area Council; California-Nevada Conference of Operating Engineers; Greenbelt Alliance; International Union of Operating Engineers, Cal-Nevada Conference; Metropolitan Transportation Commission; San Jose Chamber of Commerce; Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority; Silicon Valley Bicycle Association; Streets for All

Oppose:

None on file

Attachments:

- Attachment A: SB 1375 (Cortese) Support letter


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