

**From:** Webster, Monique

**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 8:02 PM

**To:** MTC-ABAG Info <info@bayareametro.gov>

**Cc:** Alix Bockelman <ABockelman@bayareametro.gov>; Theresa Romell <TRomell@bayareametro.gov>

**Subject:** MTC Commission Item 13.a

**\*External Email\***

Attached is a letter of support for item 13.a at the upcoming 10/27 MTC Commission meeting. Please let me know if you have any questions, thank you.

**Monique Webster** (she/hers)  
Regional Government Affairs Manager



San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency





October 25, 2021

Alfredo Pedroza, Chair, Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Bay Area Metro Center  
375 Beale St., Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

Dear Chair Pedroza:

In advance of the October 27<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting, we support the staff recommendation under Agenda Item 13a: American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Phase 2 Programming Recommendation to distribute the remaining funds for operating support based on the methodology used to determine operator shares under Phase 1.

Taking action to program the funds on October 27<sup>th</sup> is critical to align with the timeline and provide the opportunity for Bay Area operators to compete for \$2.2 billion nationwide in additional transit operating assistance recently announced by the Federal Transit Administration. It is estimated that the region could stand to receive between \$100 million and \$300 million in those discretionary funds. By distributing the region's remaining ARP Act funds, MTC will clear the way for transit agencies to apply by the November 8<sup>th</sup> deadline.

The CARES, CRSSAA and first tranche of ARP Act federal funding have provided a \$3.2 billion lifeline to Bay Area transit agencies to preserve the region's transit systems in the face of devastating ridership and revenue losses. That financial assistance has ensured the survival of our agencies while averting layoffs and enabling safe transit service for those who need it most. While the demand for local services has climbed, return-to-work for many of the offices in downtown San Francisco and Silicon Valley continues to be slow and is expected to take years to return to pre-pandemic levels. This final allocation of ARP Act funds will support us in delivering transit service to the public on this longer than anticipated road of recovery from the pandemic.

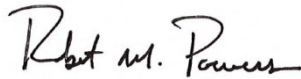
Finally, we support the delivery of the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force's Transit Transformation Action Plan that will benefit all transit riders, including the use of up to \$85 million in alternate near term revenue sources (such as State Transit Assistance and Federal Transit Administration formula funds) to support the recommendations.

We want to thank MTC staff once again for their collaboration and work to develop a proposal that meets the needs not only of the transit operators, but also the riders we serve. We urge the Commission to support the recommended allocation of the second tranche of the ARP Act funding. We look forward to our continued partnership as we do our best to serve the public with these funds.

Sincerely,



Michael Hursh  
General Manager  
Alameda-Contra Costa  
Transit District (AC Transit)



Robert Powers  
General Manager  
San Francisco Bay Area  
Rapid Transit District  
(BART)



Michelle Bouchard  
Acting Executive Director  
Caltrain



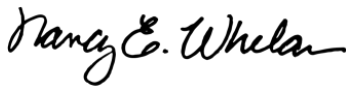
Rick Ramacier  
General Manager  
County Connection



Denis Mulligan  
General Manager  
Golden Gate Bridge,  
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District



Michael S. Tree  
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Nancy Whelan  
General Manager  
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Kate Miller,  
Executive Director  
Napa Valley Transportation  
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Jeffrey Tumlin  
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Carter Mau  
Acting General Manager  
San Mateo County Transit  
District (SamTrans)



Seamus Murphy  
Executive Director  
Water Emergency  
Transportation Authority  
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Carolyn M. Gonot  
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Santa Clara Valley  
Transportation Authority  
(VTA)



Rachel Ede  
Deputy Director,  
City of Santa Rosa  
Transportation & Public  
Works



Beth Kranda  
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Solano County Transit  
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Jeanne Krieg  
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Authority (WestCAT)