



California Legislature

March 11, 2025

Chair Sue Noack
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Item 3b. Major Project Advancement Policy: Stage Gate Evaluation and Recommendations for Transbay Joint Powers Authority—The Portal Project

Dear Chair Noack and Commissioners,

Thank you to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for considering the elevation of The Portal to Level 1 of the Major Project Advancement Policy (MAP), the Bay Area's roadmap for funding critical transit projects with long-term benefits.

Over two decades in the making, The Portal is a project of national and state significance, designed to reduce impacts on climate change, create good-paying jobs, and expand equitable access to transit across the Bay Area. With 72% of the project already funded, including a \$3.38 billion federal commitment, it is crucial to elevate The Portal on the Bay Area's prioritized transit project list to ensure that this federal commitment can be fully leveraged.

Moving The Portal to Level 1 will also allow for it to compete for critical matching funds, especially as the State Legislature discusses reauthorizing the State's Cap and Trade program, which The Portal is targeting to close its \$2.5 billion funding gap.

We strongly recommend that MTC approve the staff recommendation to elevate The Portal to Level 1 of the MAP. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Scott Wiener, 11th Senate District



Matt Haney, 17th Assembly District



Catherine Stefani, 19th Assembly District