



**San Francisco
County Transportation
Authority**



Mayor
London N. Breed

February 18, 2022

Alfredo Pedroza, Chair
Therese McMillan, Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, California 94105

SUBJECT:
MTC TIRCP and State Budget Endorsements

Dear Chair Pedroza and Director McMillan,

Thank you for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Programming and Allocation Committee's recommendation to fully endorse the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's (SFMTA's) Core Capacity projects and partially endorse the Transbay Joint Powers Authority's Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) project for the current funding cycle of Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) (Cycle 5). As requested by Commissioners Ronen and Josefowitz and echoed by several Commissioners and members of the public, we strongly encourage MTC to prioritize these projects for future state and federal funding opportunities. Specifically, these include the potential upcoming TIRCP augmentation funding cycle for \$2 billion from state surplus funds for priority transit projects, as proposed by Governor Newsom and being considered by the legislature,.

We appreciate the Committee's support for adding the DTX to MTC's Cap and Trade/TIRCP Framework and request that the Commission consider an updated Framework this spring, prior to state budget adoption, that clearly reflects the region's support for this long-standing priority project for future state funds and federal funds at significant levels, appropriate for a project of such regional significance. Since 2001, the DTX has been a regional Federal Transit Administration New Starts priority project and has recently been granted entry into this program, allowing the project to seek major capital investment grant funds in the coming years. These investments are critical to bringing Caltrain and California High Speed Rail to the Salesforce Transit Center by 2035, as envisioned in Plan Bay Area 2050. Securing state funds, particularly TIRCP, strongly positions the project over the next 18 months for a successful New Starts grant application, and a Full Funding Grant Agreement, in 2025.

Given the project's readiness, as well as its long-standing status as a regional transit expansion priority, DTX should be prioritized in parallel with existing TIRCP projects, as well as SFMTA and AC Transit projects, which also have unmet needs from the Cap and Trade Framework. In this regard, we respectfully request that the Commission's February 23 action be limited to confirming endorsements for the current TIRCP funding round and that prioritization for next-phase TIRCP or budget surplus funds be addressed separately through a collaborative and timely process.



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Page 2 of 2

We are hopeful for significantly increased transportation investments from the current legislative budget process and urge the Commission to take up the prioritization of regional projects for state and federal funding opportunities as soon as possible. We look forward to working together in partnership to secure state and federal grants to deliver on the transportation and climate goals of Plan Bay Area 2050.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "London Breed".

London Breed
Mayor, City and County of San Francisco

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rafael Mandelman".

Rafael Mandelman
Chair, San Francisco County Transportation Authority Board

cc:
Com. Ronen,
J. Tumlin, J. Rewer -SFMTA
ALF, MEL, TC