

Date: January 22, 2020  
Referred by: Commission

ABSTRACT

Resolution No. 4408

Resolution of appreciation for James C. Ghielmetti on the occasion of his departure from the California Transportation Commission.

Date: January 22, 2020  
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RE: Resolution of Appreciation James C. Ghielmetti

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
Resolution No. 4408

WHEREAS, James C. “Jim” Ghielmetti, has departed from the California Transportation Commission (CTC) after 15 years of exemplary service and one of the longest tenures in CTC history; and

WHEREAS, Jim twice served as Chair and Vice Chair of the CTC, filling the Vice Chair seat from March 2006 through February 2007 and again from March 2011 through February 2013; and presiding as Chair from March 2007 through February 2008 and then returning to the Commission’s top position from March 2013 through February 2014; and

WHEREAS, Jim’s departure from the CTC is a loss for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), which will miss his partnership and support as a steadfast advocate for transportation improvements in the Bay Area and throughout the state of California; and

WHEREAS, Jim during his tenure with the CTC presided over many new and important infusions of transportation funding, starting with the Traffic Congestion Relief Program created by Governor Gray Davis to relieve congestion, improve goods movement and improve the connectivity between different modes of transportation; and

WHEREAS, Jim went on to allocate funds from Proposition 1B, the 2006 Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality and Port Security Bond Act, which established programs such as the Corridor Mobility Improvement Account, the Trade Corridor Improvement Fund and the State Local Partnership Program; and

WHEREAS, Jim also captained the allocation of funds from the Transportation Enhancement and Active Transportation Program, as well as the state Cape and Trade program and the landmark 2017 Senate Bill 1 transportation funding package; and

WHEREAS, Jim oversaw the delivery of major Bay Area transportation projects, including the Devil’s Slide Tunnel in San Mateo County, the Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore, the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge East Span, Interstate 580 HOV Lanes in the Tri-Valley, the BART extension from Fremont to Warm Springs, the widening of State Route 12 through

Jameson Canyon in Napa and Solano counties, and the establishment and approval of the Bay Area Express Lane Network; and


WHEREAS, Jim was dedicated to holding Caltrans accountable for ensuring accurate cost estimates, and always scrutinized project cost increases to ensure the public's money was spent wisely; and

WHEREAS, MTC committed a strategic error in its pursuit through the Legislature of approval for the Bay Area Express Lanes Network before seeking CTC approval, prompting Jim to express initial deep antagonism to the concept before MTC Deputy Executive Director Andrew Fremier acknowledged the error and observed that both Joe Montana and Tom Brady were passed over in the first round of the NFL Draft -- after which the CTC unanimously approved the MTC proposal; and

WHEREAS, Jim was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom in October 2019 to sit on the Board of Directors of the California High-Speed Rail Authority, and bring his tenacious dedication to improving transportation for Californians to a project that will connect the mega-regions of the Golden State and be the nation's first high-speed rail system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the staff and commissioners of Metropolitan Transportation Commission thank Jim for his years of service to the California Transportation Commission and to the San Francisco Bay Area; congratulate Jim on his challenging new role leading a megaproject which will have long-lasting impacts on California's economy, environment, and society; and wish for him silver-bullet solutions to the Golden State's bullet train complexities. Bon Voyage!

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

  
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Scott Haggarty, Chair

The above resolution was approved by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission at a regular meeting of the Commission held in San Francisco, California, on January 22, 2020.