

# California Legislature

September 27, 2016

Re: Request for an Executive Consultant for the Altamont Regional Rail Working Group

Dear Ms. Richman,

We join together to show our strong collective support for the connection of the Bay Area Rapid Transit System (BART) to the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) and for a consultant to assist with the Altamont Regional Rail Working Group (Working Group) with these efforts.

The Working Group comprised of local elected officials and business representatives across the East Bay and San Joaquin Valley was created for the purpose of providing input on regional rail planning taking place in the Tri-Valley, and to explore ways to expedite the BART to ACE connection. This is a megaregion project that will significantly increase ridership on BART and ACE, reducing congestion on the I-580 that will facilitate goods movement, lessen commuting times, and improve air quality. The important BART to ACE connection is included in the 2007 MTC Regional Rail Plan and the 2015 Northern California Megaregion Report by the Bay Area Council Economic Institute.

The Working Group would benefit from a leader in staff that has rail experience and both understands and has led rail expansion and connectivity projects so that the Working Group can better provide input and expertise in the multi-agency rail planning efforts taking place in the Tri-Valley. To facilitate these efforts, LAVTA has applied for Regional Measure 1 funding in the amount of \$330,000 per year for two years to hire an Executive Consultant to lead the Working Group.

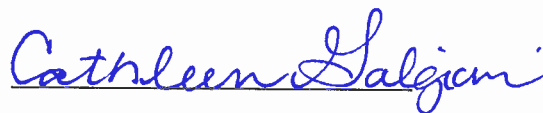
The consultant will be responsible for developing policies for the Working Group, and identifying and developing strategies to ensure progress of the Working Group in providing input into regional rail planning. The consultant will have a strong emphasis on finding efficiencies in the planning and construction of the BART to ACE connection in the Tri-Valley.

We strongly support this application and respectfully request MTC give favorable consideration to LAVTA's application for funding.

Best Regards,



CATHARINE B. BAKER  
Assemblywoman, 16th District

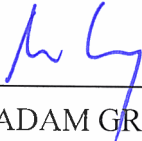


CATHLEEN GALGIANI  
Senator, 5th District

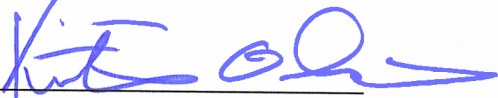




ANTHONY CANNELLA  
Senator, 12th District



ADAM GRAY  
Assemblyman, 21st District



KRISTIN OLSEN  
Assemblywoman, 12th District

**ERIC SWALWELL**  
15TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

**PERMANENT SELECT  
COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

- RANKING MEMBER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CIA
- SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEPARTMENT  
OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AND  
OVERHEAD ARCHITECTURE

**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,  
SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY**

- SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY
- SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY

**HANDOUT: Agenda Item 8b**

**DEMOCRATIC STEERING &  
POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**REGIONAL DEMOCRATIC WHIP**  
**DEMOCRATIC POLICY &  
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

1260 B STREET, SUITE 150  
HAYWARD, CA 94541  
(510) 370-3322

5075 HOPYARD ROAD, SUITE 220  
PLEASANTON, CA 94588  
(925) 460-5100

129 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5065

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0515**

September 27, 2016

Re: Item 8b – BART to Livermore Environmental Work and Altamont Regional Rail Working Group

Dear Ms. Richman:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on Item 8b on the September 28, 2016 Metropolitan Transportation Commission agenda. I whole-heartedly support the allocation of funds for environmental work and rail planning in the Tri-Valley and Altamont corridor.

As you are aware, a BART connection to Livermore has been envisioned since the agency's inception. The allocation of \$1.6 million in AB1171 bridge toll funds will help complete the current environmental process which has been ongoing since 2007. In that same year (2007), a BART to ACE connection in the Tri-Valley was identified as a key component in the MTC Regional Plan. More recently, just this summer in its Northern California Megaregion Report, the Bay Area Council Economic Institute identified this same BART to ACE connection in Livermore as a key piece of needed infrastructure.

A BART to ACE connection is an important solution to the intolerable congestion on I-580 caused by the jobs/housing imbalance between the Bay Area and the San Joaquin Valley. This mega-region project substantially increases transit ridership on both BART and ACE, takes cars off of the road to improve air quality, and connects employees who live in the San Joaquin Valley to job centers in the Bay Area. In addition, considering that the Altamont corridor is the primary route for all goods movement to and from the Bay Area to the Central Valley and Southern California, any relief to congestion in this region is essential for the region's economy.

In order to address this issue, just this past year the Altamont Regional Rail Working Group was created. There was recognition among policy makers in both the Tri-Valley and San Joaquin Valley that historically transportation planning has often been done in regional silos and that there was a need for more inter-regional collaboration. The Altamont Regional Rail Working Group is made up of the right mix of policy makers from both the Bay Area and Central Valley, including Supervisors and business representatives from Alameda and San Joaquin Counties, the Mayors of the Tri-Valley, a Tracy City Council Member, and directors from BART, ACE, and LAVTA.

Over the past year, the Working Group has been partnering with ACE on its ACEforward planning and with BART on the BART to Isabel Extension. Considering that both studies are happening simultaneously, right now is a unique opportunity to find efficient cost-effective solutions to connect BART and ACE that might not be available in the future unless immediate steps are taken.

However, leadership and rail expertise are needed by the Working Group to coordinate with multiple MPO's and transit agencies, along with residents in both the Bay Area and San Joaquin Valley to find cost-effective and efficient solutions. This is why I am advocating funding for the hiring of an Executive Consultant to assist the Working Group. Multi-agency and inter-regional rail planning is a challenging endeavor, and I believe it is necessary to have an experienced rail professional to lend their expertise towards this effort.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this item. I look forward to working with you to make rail connectivity in the Tri-Valley a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Swalwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Swalwell" clearly legible.

Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress





September 27, 2016

Anne Richman, Director  
Programming & Allocations  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
375 Beale Street #800  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Support for funding of Executive Consultant for Altamont Regional Rail Working Group

Dear Ms. Richman,

The City of Dublin is supportive of the future Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) and Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) connection in the Tri-Valley and of the consultant to assist with the Altamont Regional Rail Working Group (Working Group) with these efforts.

The BART and ACE connection will considerably increase ridership on both BART and ACE, which will decrease congestion on the I-580 and benefit motorist and goods movement. The connection is included in both the 2007 MTC Regional Rail Plan and the recent Northern California Megaregion Report by the Bay Area Council Economic Institute.

The Working Group will benefit from a leader in staff that has rail experience and both understands and has led rail expansion and connectivity projects so that the Working Group can better provide input and expertise in the multi-agency rail planning efforts taking place in the Tri-Valley.

I strongly support this application and respectfully request MTC provide support.

Best Regards,

David Haubert  
Mayor

**City Council**  
925.833.6650  
**City Manager**  
925.833.6650  
**Community Development**  
925.833.6610  
**Economic Development**  
925.833.6650  
**Finance/IT**  
925.833.6640  
**Fire Prevention**  
925.833.6606  
**Human Resources**  
925.833.6605  
**Parks & Community Services**  
925.833.6645  
**Police**  
925.833.6670  
**Public Works**  
925.833.6630

100 Civic Plaza  
Dublin, CA 94568  
P 925.833.6650  
F 925.833.6651  
[www.dublin.ca.gov](http://www.dublin.ca.gov)

September 27, 2016

Ms. Ann Richman  
Director, Programming and Allocations  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Bay Area Metro Center  
375 Beale Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: September 28<sup>th</sup> Metropolitan Transportation Commission Meeting, Item 8b

Dear Ms. Richman,

I am writing on behalf of Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group. Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group (ITV) is a business leadership association working to improve the business climate and quality of life in the Tri-Valley region. ITV is creating an interconnected hub of innovation in the Tri-Valley that spurs job growth and sustains a healthy economy and a vibrant community.

Traffic congestion on Bay Area freeways is bad now, and will only get worse in the future. Traffic along with high housing prices are making it harder and harder for businesses to attract qualified employees. Some Bay Area businesses have relocated to the Tri-Valley to be closer to their work force, which resides predominately in the Central Valley.

We need to connect BART to ACE in Livermore to offer an alternative to sitting for hours in traffic on I-580. A BART-ACE connection would provide a transit alternative to help bring workers from the Central Valley to jobs in the Bay Area.

We urge you to support the staff recommendation in item 8b, including the funding for an Executive Consultant for LAVTA to lead the effort to plan and implement a BART-ACE connection. This planning effort is long overdue. Initially identified in MTC's Regional Rail Plan in 2007, we need to start looking seriously at transit connectivity within the Northern California Mega Region.

Sincerely,

Dale Kaye, CEO

cc: Supervisor Haggerty



September 27, 2016

Ms. Ann Richman  
Director, Programming and Allocations  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Bay Area Metro Center  
375 Beale Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: September 28<sup>th</sup> Metropolitan Transportation Commission Meeting, Item 8b

Dear Ms. Richman,

The City of Livermore fully supports the staff recommendations in Item 8b on the agenda for tomorrow's MTC meeting.

In recent years Bay Area job production has far outpaced its housing production. The opposite is true in San Joaquin County. This combination has increased the pressure for commuting into the Bay Area over the Altamont Pass increasing traffic congestion, air pollutants and greenhouse gasses, hours of delay and lost productivity. This pattern is likely to continue for many years given the severe lack of affordable housing in the Bay Region and relatively affordable housing in San Joaquin County. We need to advance transit projects that increase connectivity in the Northern California Mega Region.

Connecting BART to the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) in Livermore is one project that is crucial to improving mobility in the Mega Region. The BART-ACE connection in Livermore is included in MTC's Regional Rail Plan. However, additional planning and coordination on both sides of the Altamont is needed. The proposed Executive Consultant for LAVTA would provide expertise in rail planning and implementation to lead the Altamont Regional Rail Working Group in its mission to improve transit connections within the Northern California Mega Region via the Altamont Pass.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Marchand". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Marchand, Mayor

c: Supervisor Haggerty