

February 22, 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 AND FEDERAL BUDGET ENDORSEMENTS

Dear Chair Pedroza and Director McMillan,

Thank you to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's endorsement of \$25 million for the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) project's Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) cycle 5 application. We appreciate the MTC's long-standing support of DTX, which will extend Caltrain service from Fourth and King Street to Salesforce Transit Center in downtown San Francisco and bring California High-Speed Rail's statewide service into the Bay Area megaregion. The DTX will bring communities closer, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide Bay Area residents improved access to jobs, housing and economic opportunities. It is a transformational, once-in-a-generation investment that will connect 11 transit systems from San Francisco to the East and North Bays, the Peninsula and South Bay along with the State.

With DTX in the Project Development phase of the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grants (FTA CIG) program, we are poised to unlock federal funding for up to \$2.5 billion of the project's cost and take advantage of unprecedented funding opportunities not available to us since the Great Recession.

We have a short 18-month window ahead of us to ensure that we meet the FTA CIG \$1.5 billion local match funding milestone by August 2023 to be included in President Biden's 2024 budget, which paves the way for successful full-funding grant agreement with the FTA in 2025. That is why we are preparing a \$600 million multi-cycle TIRCP application to submit on March 3, 2022. Thus, we respectfully ask the MTC's support and inclusion of DTX in the next round of TIRCP framework and in the Bay Area's regional priority lists for both State and Federal funding opportunities for appropriate and significant levels of funding.

We appreciate MTC staff's commitment to minimizing project competition within the region in order to maximize the Bay Area's success competing for state surplus and federal infrastructure funds. We understand this prioritization process has already begun with a federal strategy list of regional projects for consideration at the Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee on March 11, as well as updates to the TIRCP framework and Resolution 3434 in spring 2022. We look

forward to working with MTC staff on ensuring a competitive Bay Area regional list of projects, which we request to include DTX.

For over 20 years, DTX has been an established regional priority project and with the funding opportunities on the State and Federal levels, we can collectively deliver this long-standing Resolution 3434 and Plan Bay Area 2050 tier 1 priority project. We stand ready to deliver this priority project and its long-term regional economic benefits and can begin constructing this critical rail link as soon as funding becomes available.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if you'd like additional information provided to your Commission members on this important project.

Sincerely,



Jeff Gee
Chair, TJPA Board



Adam Van de Water
Executive Director, TJPA