



July 25, 2023

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Item 9b - MTC Resolution Nos. 4584, Revised, and 4596-4602. Allocation of \$379 million in Regional Measure 3 (RM3) capital funds to ACTC, SMCTA, STA, and VTA

Dear Metropolitan Transportation Commissioners,

The undersigned organizations submit this letter urging this commission to move forward with the above listed Regional Measure 3 funding allocations for all projects listed under this item. In particular, this coalition of community based organizations would like to emphasize the importance of these funds for the advancement of VTA's Eastridge to BART Regional Connector. This project would give East San Jose transit riders an effective opportunity to access BART, a major regional transportation system as the South Bay continues to grow out its mass transit network. Advocates, labor representatives, elected officials, and the community at large have worked ardently for years to move this project past various hurdles including redesign and the need to identify outstanding sources funding.

The importance that this project has for the South Bay, but in particular for East San Jose residents cannot be overstated. As this community looks to move past decades of hardships including substandard air quality and traffic congestion, VTA, the City of San Jose, and the County of Santa Clara have put forth numerous measures to further sustainability, transportation, and equitable land use goals to reverse past impacts. The completion of this project serves as a crucial component of that vision.

We would like to commend all partners involved with moving this project forward and for looking to revenue sources such as RM3 to ensure that this project is fully funded. In particular, we would like to express our appreciation to the City of San Jose for working with MTC staff to ensure that any major transportation projects align with newly implemented regional guidelines.

There should be a common recognition that all residents, regardless of background deserve access to robust, effective transportation systems. In order to increase ridership and utilization of public transportation in the South Bay, we must look to support projects such as the Eastridge

to BART regional connector in whatever way possible, including securing crucial sources of funds to finance construction.

We urge this commission to move forward with these recommended funding allocations, and look forward to the day where the Eastridge transit center, Santa Clara County's most utilized transit hub, has ample connection to BART as the regional public transit system gets extended into and through San Jose. Thank you for your attention and consideration of this most important matter of transportation justice.

Sincerely,

Maria Noel Fernandez, Executive Director, Working Partnerships USA

Gabriela Chavez-Lopez, Executive Director, Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley

Gabriel Manrique, Community Organizer, Latinos Unidos for a New America