

From: Neil Williams [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 16:24:58

To: MTC-ABAG Info <info@bayareametro.gov>

Subject: Metropolitan Transportation Commission Agenda Item Number 12a

Dear Commissioners:

I am a Bay Area resident and transit rider, with SF Transit Riders and a member of the Voices for Public Transportation Coalition. We have been advocating for a progressive, operations-focused, climate-positive transit measure for over five years and are thrilled that it is closer than ever to being a reality!

I was heartened to see that the poll results are showing some positive trends. People are more supportive of a transit measure than they were in October. Tax sensitivity has dropped almost 10% since 2023, and hopefully by 2026 that number will be even lower.

The poll results clearly show that voters want to see improvements to our transit system, not just preventing cuts. Thus, any viable solution must go big and support transit improvements. The poll also shows that voters support more funding for transit, but that the biggest concern is cost of living. This suggests that voters would support a progressive business tax that would not make life more expensive for Bay Area residents. Also, voters strongly supported transit for seniors, people with disabilities and low income people who depend on transit.

Additionally, I have some comments on the principles. The Select Committee never reached a consensus on the principles, and there should be a strong set of principles coming out of this meeting. I hope MTC will vote to include an equity principle so funding will be distributed equitably across the transit agencies. AC Transit and Muni are currently carrying approximately 75% of transit trips between the four largest agencies, and they should get enough funding to bring back pre-pandemic service levels, and they move many seniors, people with disabilities and low income people who depend on transit

It is clear from the polling results that a strong measure that improves our transit system while putting the cost burden on those with the greatest ability to pay can win at the ballot box. I hope MTC will embrace such a measure.

Sincerely,

Neil Williams
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