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

Subject: MTC Executive Committee and Policy Advisory Council Transformation Action Plan comments

External Email

MTC Executive Committee Agenda #3

MTC Policy Advisory Council Transit Transformation Action Plan Subcommittee Agenda #4

Dear MTC Commissioners and Policy Advisory Council Members,

As people with disabilities and allies, we would like to thank the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and agencies for working together on a Transformation Action Plan to transform the Bay Area's public transportation system to become more rider-friendly and accessible, and a Network Management Business Case study examining how to manage a more coordinated and accessible public transportation system that is accountable to riders.

We have several comments about the Network Management Business Case Study and the Transformation Action Plan overview.

Regarding the Network Management Business Case Study:

Defining Accessibility. We are glad to see that Accessibility is one of the six functions being analyzed in depth. We want to ensure that Accessibility is defined broadly. Accessibility should refer not only to needed changes to the Paratransit system, but also covering standards for accessibility for seniors and people with a broad spectrum of disabilities to the full public transportation system, with ADA requirements considered the floor not the ceiling, and covering communications practices that include seniors and people with disabilities.

Accountability. The study considers accountability, and is assembling materials from pre-existing rider surveys and focus groups. But none of these previous studies asked about riders' needs for accountable governance. We want a single policymaking body to engage regarding decisions about system standards and coordination. And we want the policymaking body to include representation of people with lived experience and knowledge about accessibility.

Transformative Change. The study will have recommendations for near-term changes that can be done with existing authorities and budgets, as well as medium-longer term changes requiring new funding and new authority. We want a path toward transformative change to deliver a fully accessible, well-integrated public transportation system.

Regarding the Transformation Action Plan report:

We are glad to see a comprehensive overview on the progress of the Transformation Action Plan. This overview is important to show the public progress toward a seamlessly integrated, accessible public transportation system.

* Please continue to provide regular updates about the progress of the Transformation Action Plan to a

single MTC Committee and to the full Commission - please do not continue to report to different committees for each topic, which makes it very difficult for transit riders and the general public to keep track

* Upon completion of the Network Management Business Case, please set up a unified, balanced, transparent policy-making board for the Transformation Action Plan going forward.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sandra Lang

Frank Welte

Daveed Mandell

Adina Levin

Debbie Toth