

From: Marjorie Alvord [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 16:35:01

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 about the Bay, primarily in Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. I volunteer with Genesis and 350 Bay Area, both members of the Voices for Public Transportation Coalition. We have been advocating for a progressive, operations-focused, climate-positive regional transit funding measure for over five years. I'm pleased that it is closer than ever to being a reality!

It was good 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 indicates that voters want to see improvements to our transit system. A measure simply intended to prevent cuts would not be viable. The only feasible solution is to ensure that a measure would raise enough revenue to support significant transit improvements. GO BIG!

While the poll shows that voters support more funding for transit, it indicates 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.

Voters strongly supported transit for seniors, people with disabilities and low income people who depend on transit. Supporting the needs of transit dependent riders is also extremely important to me and to the organizations with which I volunteer.

Also, I have some comments on the principles.

Please remember that the Select Committee never did reach consensus on the principles.

I urge MTC to 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.

Additionally, I urge MTC to vote to include a climate-positive principle which acknowledges the importance of maintaining accessible, safe, reliable and frequent public transit for mitigating the climate crisis. Since, according to climate scientists, global average temperature reached 1.5 degrees Celcius more than pre-industrial levels for all months in 2024, it is imperative that we do more to mitigate the climate crisis. Transportation contributes more greenhouse gas emissions than any other segment in California, and when more people take well-operating transit, vehicle miles traveled and emissions are reduced. Also, public transit agencies are required by California to become zero-emission earlier than any other form of transportation, so it is important we do all we can to support and encourage people using it.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Alvord

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