

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
SAN FRANCISCO



DANIEL LURIE  
MAYOR

March 11, 2025

MTC Chair Susan Noack  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)  
375 Beale Street, Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**RE: Item 3b. Major Project Advancement Policy: Stage Gate Evaluation and Recommendations for Transbay Joint Powers Authority - the Portal Project**

Dear Chair Noack and Commissioners,

Thank you to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for considering the elevation of The Portal to Level 1 of the Major Project Advancement Policy (MAP), the Bay Area's roadmap to fund important transit projects with positive long-term impact.

The Portal is an important San Francisco capital megaproject that would bring Caltrain and California High Speed Rail from its current terminus station at 4<sup>th</sup> and King to the Salesforce Transit Center, creating a one seat ride from Silicon Valley to San Francisco's downtown. This project, decades in the making, is now over 70% funded with a federal commitment of \$3.38 billion. The Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) and its partners are working to secure all required matching funds to unlock these federal funds for the benefit of the Bay Area and State.

Advancement of The Portal to Level 1 of MAP is important to a sustainable and resilient transportation future; it will reduce the Bay Area's greenhouse gas emission impacts by reducing drivers' vehicle-miles-travelled, create over 60,000 jobs over the life of the project, and connect our greater region, leading to additional economic development benefits. Once completed, The Portal will serve 90,000 average daily riders and increase equitable access to transit for riders across the Bay Area. Moving The Portal to Level 1 will also allow it to compete for critical matching funds, such as the State's Cap and Trade program, as the TJPA works to close its funding gap of \$2.5 billion and sign a Full Funding Grant Agreement with the Federal Transit Administration.

We appreciate MTC' staff's stage gate process and evaluation of The Portal over the past six months. As San Francisco's most important capital transit project, I strongly recommend that MTC approve the staff recommendation to elevate The Portal to Level 1 of the MAP.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Lurie".

Daniel Lurie  
Mayor of San Francisco