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COUNTERTERRORISM

March 22, 2022

The Honorable Alfredo Pedroza, Chair
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
375 Beale Street
San Francisco CA 94105-2066

RE: Congressman Swalwell's Support for Valley Link in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Regional Grant Strategy as a Project Priority for the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Program

Dear Chair Pedroza:

I write in support of the Valley Link rail transit project's inclusion in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)'s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Regional Grant Strategy as a project priority for the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Program. To achieve the region's goals for the economy, the environment, housing, and transportation – it needs a robust and sustainable passenger rail system that will equitably serve our residents and work force with better access to jobs, educational opportunities, and health care facilities. I believe that Valley Link is a vital element of this rail system and essential to the future of our region.

Valley Link is leading in transit innovation and sustainability by connecting the Northern California megaregion with the first passenger rail system in California running on self-produced green hydrogen and a hydrogen fuel production facility able to support other transit and heavy truck operators. In addition to the use of zero emissions vehicle and green energy production technologies, the Valley Link Board-adopted Sustainability Policy identifies implementing strategies to achieve a zero emissions system through innovation station access. This includes electric autonomous shuttles, shared mobility, and support for local transit operator alternative vehicle technology.

Valley Link is also vital to the economy of the Bay Area and megaregion. The Valley Link initial operating segment (IOS) between the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station and the Mountain House station will connect tens of thousands of workers to the Tri-Valley at the center of the Northern California Megaregion, one of the fastest growing and economically robust areas in the state of California. As a thriving job center, the Tri-Valley is home to two national labs in Livermore and the headquarter location of more than 450 technology companies with a regional gross domestic product of over \$42 billion. Valley Link will have significant benefits to the region, including a proposed increase the regional housing supply through the advancement of transit-oriented development at stations along the corridor including at the Isabel and Southfront Valley Link stations in Livermore. The Isabel Neighborhood Specific Plan, within an adopted MTC Priority Development Area (PDA), is complete and Southfront has recently been approved as a PDA by MTC.

In addition, Valley Link meets the CIG Program's eligibility requirements and has widespread support from all sectors of the Northern California Megaregion. Valley Link is also identified in MTC's Plan Bay Area 2050 (2021-2035 delivery period) and at project inception has over \$700 million in funding already available in local funding. The project already has California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental clearance and a targeted construction date of 2025, which supports a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) under the CIG Program within the BIL's five-year timeframe.

Consistent with MTC's Equity Priority Communities Framework and the Biden Administration's new Justice40 Initiative, Valley Link will also achieve near-term mobility, accessibility, environmental, and health benefits for the more than 100,500 Bay Area workers now commuting daily from their homes in the Northern San Joaquin Valley – a region recognized as one of the State's largest areas of California Climate Investments Priority Populations for both State designated disadvantage communities and low-income communities.

I respectfully request that you consider Valley Link in the BIL Regional Grant Strategy as a project priority for the CIG Program and give its application full and fair consideration consistent with applicable laws, regulations, and policies.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress