



BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

DATE: March 22, 2022

TO: Metropolitan Transportation Commission Chairman Alfredo Pedroza

FROM: Lisa Vorderbrueggen, East Bay Executive Director for Governmental Affairs

RE: BIA|Bay Area Support for Valley Link in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Regional Grant Strategy as a Project Priority for the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Program

Dear Chairman Pedroza,

As an association that represents more than 400 companies engaged in the entitlement, design and construction of new homes throughout the Greater Bay Area, BIA|Bay Area strongly supports the inclusion of the Valley Link rail transit project in the MTC's Regional Grant Strategy as a project priority for the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Program.

Valley Link is a vital element of a sustainable passenger rail system that will improve the quality of life for tens of thousands of working families. Broadly supported, Valley Link meets the CIG Program – New Starts eligibility, is competitive and is ready. At project inception, Valley Link has an unprecedented one-third of its funding – more than \$700 million – already identified as available through local sources. Project development continues to advance with urgency. CEQA environmental clearance is complete. NEPA environmental clearance is underway, and a targeted construction date is set for 2025 supporting 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 benefit for the more than 100,500 Bay Area workers now commuting daily from their homes in the Northern San Joaquin Valley.

BIA is particularly excited about Valley Link's potential to 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.

We urge you to include this critical project in the BIL Regional Grant Strategy as a project priority for the CIG Program and help ensure that its many anticipated benefits will become a reality for the Bay Area and the megaregion.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Vorderbrueggen".

Lisa A. Vorderbrueggen
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