



TRANSBAY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Adam Van de Water • Executive Director

July 15, 2022

Alfredo Pedroza, Chair
Therese McMillan, Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, California 94105

SUBJECT: MTC Major Project Advancement Framework and Policy, July 13 PAC Item 5b

Dear Chair Pedroza and Director McMillan,

Thank you to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for your continued support of the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) which has been a state and regional priority since before the creation of Caltrain in the 1980s and has been included as a top priority in every MTC Regional Transportation Plan since Transportation 2030 back in 2005. MTC has repeatedly recognized the value of DTX calling it a “top regional priority” in Resolution 1876 in 1988 and including it in 2001’s Resolution 3434 as a recommended program of projects where it is the only remaining megaproject without significant construction funding.

The DTX project is gathering momentum and has met all milestones in its accelerated work schedule, including securing all federal and state environmental clearances in 2019, receiving entry into the Federal Transit Administration’s Capital Investment Grants New Starts Project Development pipeline (first step in the process) in December 2021, selecting its project delivery method, and remaining on track to complete its governance structure, and interagency agreements in time to seek entry into FTA’s engineering (second important step in the FTA CIG process) phase in February 2023, just seven months from now.

The full Transbay Program is nearly one-third complete with the 2018 opening of the Salesforce Transit Center, including \$400M in federal funds invested in the completed two-story train box. With the addition of \$800M in funds committed to connecting it to Caltrain’s railyard at 4th and King, the Transbay Program is over 42 percent complete or committed. The remaining scope of work, the DTX project, is in an advanced state of readiness and, funding dependent, is on schedule to begin right of way acquisition and utility relocation as soon as 2023 with general civil construction scheduled to begin in 2025.

The project now faces critical milestones over the next year to secure up to half of the total estimated \$5B project cost from the FTA and keep on schedule to deliver revenue service by 2031. This requires a commitment of \$1.5B in matching funds by August 2023 so we can submit a request for a Full Funding Grant Agreement (starting the two-year process to lock in the FTA’s federal contribution of up to half the project’s cost).

We therefore request MTC's consideration of the following amendments to the MAP process before you today:

1. Continue to prioritize DTX as Level 1, or at least Level 1a, so that the project can continue to competitively apply for matching funds to stay on schedule with the FTA;
2. Complete the rows for projects currently listed in Level 2 as TBD, including:
 - a. Endorse DTX for the full value of its CIG New Starts request of \$2.5B (of the \$1.8B identified in this level's revenue envelope) and planned Federal/State Partnership for Intercity Rail as previously endorsed by MTC in the Bi-partisan Infrastructure Law Framework in March of this year; and,
 - b. Ensure TJPA can apply for a portion of the \$3.3B identified in the revenue envelope for Transit Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) augmentation or TIRCP other funds to meet its August 2023 local match funding goal.

We appreciate the MTC's continued support for the DTX and look forward to connecting the Transbay neighborhood's 13,000 new residents, 1,400 affordable housing units, and nine existing Bay Area transit operators from eight Bay Area counties to the electrified future of Caltrain with two new stations that will drive over 50% of Caltrain's future ridership, serve as the northern terminus of the future California High Speed Rail system, and bring conventional gauge rail downtown for a future Transbay crossing through the Link21 project. The delivery of the DTX will bring the Bay Area's diverse communities closer, reduce climate change impacts and provide residents with access to affordable housing and jobs.

Thank you for your consideration of including DTX in Level 1 of the proposed MAP project list. We would be happy to provide Commissioners a DTX briefing and/or tour of our four-block multimodal facility as you continue to refine your Major Projects Advancement Policy.

Sincerely,



Adam Van de Water
Executive Director, TJPA