



October 25, 2022

Ms. Therese McMillan
Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

Dear Executive Director McMillan,

We appreciate MTC's support for VTA's BART Extension to Silicon Valley Phase II ("the Project") as a Level 1 priority in the Major Projects Advancement Policy and your organization's recognition of the \$750 million needed to complete the funding plan for this Project required to secure the remaining federal funds. Completing the "ring" of rail around the Bay Area by bringing BART to Silicon Valley has been a top regional priority for years. This final Transit and Intercity Capital Rail Program (TIRCP) funding is the last major step to securing potentially significantly more than \$2 billion dollars in federal funding and completing the Project's funding plan as well as leverages \$4 billion in local sales taxes to this project committed by voters in multiple ballot measures over the years. The Project's funding plan with committed local and state funds is required by Fall 2023 for the submittal of the federal Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) request to FTA. **Without a commitment of \$750 million by the fall of 2023, we are at risk of losing over \$2 billion dollars of federal funds.**

In the coming months, VTA must finalize the Project's funding plan to ensure completion of the federal funding application for submittal to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). VTA and FTA are working collaboratively to advance this critical project with VTA having begun construction activities, including but not limited to, issuing initial phases of a major progressive-design-build contract and acquiring right-of-way through pre-award authority. While MTC is anticipating the Project will receive a substantial TIRCP award through this supplemental round of grants, **we ask that every effort be made to ensure a full commitment of the \$750 million is provided to VTA to eliminate any risk that the federal funding application falls short of its funding needs.**

We thank you again for recognizing the importance of the total amount of TIRCP funds needed in your endorsement table and the impact that will have on the Project's success. **We ask that your team begin to work with VTA to complete an agreement to commit regionally directed funds to make up any shortfall once the state TIRCP grants are awarded.**

As you know, Governor Newsom's overarching goal for a transportation budget deal this past summer was to strategically leverage state funding to secure the greatest amount of federal funding possible for California infrastructure priorities. With a potential change in congressional leadership in the near future, our region needs to move as quickly as we can to secure these funds, lest federal funding priorities shift. We recognize that there are not enough state surplus TIRCP funds for all of our region's critical priorities, but we need to ensure that the Bay Area and the State of California take advantage of a singular opportunity to reap significant federal investments.

The BART Extension Silicon Valley Project, Phase II, is not just a Santa Clara County project. It has been a top regional, state and federal priority for years. The BART extension will generate 73,000 jobs, connect BART to High-Speed Rail and five other rail lines at Diridon, spur the development of crucial transit-oriented housing in the station areas and reduce greenhouse gas emission by 33 thousand tons per year by 2040.

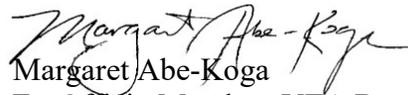
The Project is a Level 1 regional priority for good reasons. It has an existing TIRCP award, a huge federal funding commitment that could be lost, and *is already underway*. The region should commit to aggressively pursuing as much state funding for the Project now and commit the region to funding its completion as needed, to ensure that delays do not overwhelm regional or other funding programs in the future.

Thank you for recognizing the significance of the BART extension for the entire Bay Area, and for your commitment to funding its completion.

Sincerely,



Charles "Chappie" Jones
Chairperson, VTA Board of Directors
Vice Mayor, City of San Jose



Margaret Abe-Koga
Ex-Officio Member, VTA Board of Directors
Councilmember, City of Mountain View



Cindy Chavez
Member, VTA Board of Directors
Supervisor, County of Santa Clara



Sam Liccardo
Member, VTA Board of Directors
Mayor, City of San Jose