November 1, 2018

Mr. Jake Mackenzie, Chair
MTC/Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

Dear Chair Mackenzie:

On behalf of the East Bay Economic Development Alliance (East Bay EDA) we are writing to inform you of our thoughts pertaining to the selection of the next Executive Director for MTC/ABAG. As a high level, cross-sector organization providing support and services for business attraction, retention and growth in the East Bay region, we value inclusive leadership qualities and coordinated and complementary efforts towards problem-solving. Our Executive Director was recently interviewed by your executive search firm to solicit her input on areas of importance for the new leader you are seeking. Her communication is consistent with our organization's concerns.

Nearly 30% of our East Bay's 2.7M residents commute out of the East Bay region to work. That results in traffic congestion, compromised air quality, loss of regional talent and a negative quality of life. As a high commute region, our residents are also contributing to a large percentage of gas tax dollars for the improvements to our transportation infrastructure. To complicate current matters more, the housing crisis of the Bay Area is impacting our region, which remains the most affordable region in the Bay Area, but exceeds the modest incomes of low-to-moderate income households.

We believe the MTC/ABAG Executive Director must demonstrate a genuine desire to be inclusive and to receive information and concerns provided from all regions of the Bay Area. Where transportation and housing issues are disproportionate to certain regions, accommodations for varied benefits and resources need to be taken into consideration. The Bay Area has a wealth of resources, both regional and more locally-focused, and the MTC/ABAG Executive Director must take steps to support partnerships and collaborative problem-solving. Policies, processes and plans must be credible across these partnerships and not just embraced by select jurisdictions and geographies.

The diversity of the Bay Area is an asset to our dynamic growth, innovation and cultural richness. Our transportation and housing infrastructure needs to reflect the support of our diverse needs and perspectives.

Sincerely,

Hon. Keith Carson
Supervisor, Alameda County &
Chair, East Bay EDA

Edward Del Beccaro
Managing Director, East Bay and Silicon Valley,
Transwestern & Co-Chair, East Bay EDA
Legislation and Advocacy Committee

James "Buck" Koonce
Senior Advisor to the Laboratory Director,
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory &
Co-Chair, East Bay EDA Legislation and
Advocacy Committee

Art Dao
Executive Director, Alameda County
Transportation Commission & East Bay EDA
Chair, Land Use & Infrastructure Committee