SPUR
San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

October 11, 2019

Bay Area Metro
375 Beale Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Item 5b. Regional Rail Update, MTC Planning Committee and ABAG Administrative Committee

Dear MTC Planning Committee and ABAG Administrative Committee:

SPUR strongly supports MTC evolving its role in prioritizing investments, promoting supportive land uses, and coordinated project delivery.

There are many conversations happening throughout the region about how to improve project delivery and it is important for MTC to bring them together to identify shared solutions. There is a lot on the line. With over $300 billion transportation project needs, there is the potential to have many tens of billions of dollars of cost overruns. If we could reduce costs by 10%, that puts $30 billion back into our communities.

We also greatly appreciate the commitment to updating the region's TOD policy. One way to better leverage our transportation investments is to **define the purpose of each rail station within the network** –both from a land use perspective and a transportation perspective. A "typology" like this is used in Canada, Germany and the Netherlands to help guide future investments and guide local planning efforts.

We also believe that MTC could play a larger regional role in:

- Coordinating train schedules so that people can transfer quickly between trains and have shorter travel times. An early step could be requiring transit agencies to have integrated service plans as part of their planning process.

- Adopting regional or subregional service goals, such as having 15- minute headways (or better) all-day in the core by 2030.

- Advancing a more interoperable network. An early step could be adopting a resolution outlining policy goals for a network that supports interlining (compatible technologies, so that trains coming from Sacramento can run on the Caltrain Corridor, for example).

- Partnering with transit agencies to work through synergies and potential conflicts at multimodal hubs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this critical issue. We look forward to seeing MTC's continued leadership on making a new generation of rail investments successful in the Bay Area.

Sincerely,



Laura Tolkoff
Regional Planning Policy Director