



Date: May 7, 2020  
Attention: Joint MTC Legislation Committee and ABAG Legislation Committee  
Re: Agenda Item 6A., May 8, 2020 Meeting - MTC Advocacy Principles for Transit Recovery

Honorable Commissioners,

We are pleased to see that MTC is engaged in advocacy seeking federal relief for local governments and transportation systems, and the consideration of infrastructure as a recovery strategy.

The pandemic and recession have reduced transit ridership and revenues and led to additional costs to protect the health of riders and workers. We face ongoing substantial uncertainty about the duration and path of the pandemic and the economy.

With regard to advocacy for transit recovery, we support the three principles proposed in the staff report: **Keep Projects on Track, Plan Bay Area Alignment, and Supporting Job Creation**. In addition, we ask you consider the following additional principles to guide your advocacy:

- **Prioritize operating funds for transit.** Please place the highest priority on advocating for *operating funding* needed to keep the Bay Area transit system running and to be able to restore the system to a robust level of service; and please continue to advocate for flexibility in funding so that funds can be used for operations as needed.
- **Prioritize capital projects that fund meeting state-of-good repair needs.** For any authorized funding that can only be used for capital, state-of-good-repair projects that improve the resilience and reliability of the transit system and reduce future maintenance costs should be prioritized.
- **Prioritize capital projects that support equitable access, ridership, climate and connectivity goals.** And especially, at a time when dollars will be scarce, please prioritize high-performing, lower-cost capital projects that allow scarce operating funds to provide more and better service, such as transit lanes that provide faster service for more passengers per operating dollar, and active transportation projects providing healthy and sustainable transportation options, in line with the [Plan Bay Area recommendations](#) (Admin Committee Item 5A, Slides 8 and 13)

Thank you for your consideration,

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Ian Griffiths  
Policy Director, Seamless Bay Area

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adina Levin".

Adina Levin,  
Executive Director, Friends of Caltrain