



Date: May 13, 2020  
Attention: MTC Programming and Allocations Committee  
Re: Agenda Item 4B, MTC Resolution No. 4420, Revised. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (H.R. 748) - Recovery Strategy

Honorable Commissioners,

Thank you for your leadership in guiding the region's response to the pandemic, with a goal of working with transit agencies and stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive recovery strategy for transit.

We strongly support the priorities of the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force as stated in the staff report, particularly **Priority #2, "assess[ing] transit recovery strategies with an eye towards developing a regional approach to restoring ridership and stabilizing the transit network."**, and **#3 "Provid[ing] recommendations for institutional and operational changes"**.

To maximize the effectiveness of the Task Force in achieving the goal of a stronger, more resilient, and more connected transit system, we ask that you please consider the following additional input as the structure and work plan is set up over the coming weeks and months:

- **Include technical experts with national & global expertise**

In pursuing opportunities to rebuild Bay Area transit, we should seek to leverage experts with experience with transit service and governance models in high-performing transit systems, and who aren't affiliated with a specific Bay Area geography, transit agency, or interest group. In addition to elected representatives, agency staff, and stakeholders, please consider opportunities for impartial technical experts with relevant expertise to be included in the decision-making process, through direct representation on the task force, establishment of a technical advisory body, or both.

- **Consider establishing an Executive Committee**

It is often a valuable practice in successful task forces of this nature to enable a subset of the members of the full task force - an "Executive Committee" - to meet more frequently, frame the agenda for the broader group, and engage more closely with staff and consultants involved in the content preparation and analysis. This can enable large task forces to move more quickly and ensure larger group discussions are more focused.

- **Ensure sufficient budget resources**

The work that the Task Force will undertake is essential to rehabilitating a public transportation system that will be essential to economic recovery, serving low-income residents and advancing environmental goals. The Task Force should have a budget sufficient to bring on the appropriate staff and consultant expertise, in line with the urgency and significance of the

problems the region is facing. Given the degree to which this Task Force is working on issues of a broad public interest, it may be possible to supplement the project budget with outside funding from aligned civic and philanthropic partners, should additional budget resources be needed.

- **Focus on network planning as an accessibility principle and recovery strategy**

In determining the CARES Act funding and recovery, it will be important both to ensure core levels of connected service for transit-dependent populations and key corridors across the region, and to ensure that the Bay Area has the capability to recover a complete transit network.

We are pleased to be nominated to serve on the task force and look forward to participating if confirmed by the Commission.

Sincerely,

Thank you for your consideration,



Ian Griffiths  
Policy Director, Seamless Bay Area



Adina Levin,  
Advocacy Director, Seamless Bay Area