



Dear Chair Josefowitz, Vice Chair Dutra-Vernaci, and fellow MTC Programming and Allocations Committee members,

My name is Madlen Saddik. I am President and CEO of the Alameda Chamber of Commerce. I would like to address item 4B on your agenda for the July 8th MTC Programming and Allocations Committee meeting. The Alameda Chamber represents members throughout the City of Alameda, ranging from mom and pop grocers and restaurants to large employers like The North Face and Telecare. Many of our residents traditionally relied on the AC Transit service to get around the city of Alameda and to Oakland and San Francisco for work and pleasure. Currently, the service has been the backbone of transit and critical for essential worker travel during this pandemic.

We know that the current pandemic has drastically impacted businesses across the economy, including transit agencies. AC Transit has taken a tremendous financial hit due to foregoing fare collection and social distancing which helps to keep the passengers and operators safe during the pandemic. They may likely continue to suffer financially due to reduced sales tax revenues as well.

We recognize that all of our public transit agencies have been impacted by the current pandemic and our fear is that AC Transit may have to reduce its service even more due to shrinking revenues. Given the current economic climate, the proposed \$33.8 million that is being proposed for MTC to allocate to AC Transit will provide a lifeline for the transit agency during these difficult times and mitigate the need to reduce service for the foreseeable future. Furthermore, this allocation will help to sustain and stabilize service levels that so many of our chamber and community members and patrons rely on to keep our local economy going as we move through the pandemic.

I fully support the allocation to AC Transit. Please provide this necessary funding to AC Transit so that our residents are not left stranded. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Kindest regards,

Yours in Commerce and Community

Gratefully

Madlen Saddik

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