

October 13, 2020

To: Metropolitan Transportation Commission Administration Committee

Re: Contract Amendment - Return-to-Transit Opinion and Employer Research: EMC Research, Inc (\$160,000)

Dear Chair Glover and the Administration Committee:

We are writing regarding the plans outlined in item 3b, Return-to-Transit Opinion and Employer Research, which allocates \$160,000 to EMC Research to conduct opinion and employer research. We are concerned about the lack of specific focus on the needs and priorities of transit-dependent people, low-income communities, communities of color, and people with disabilities.

We fully support the efforts on behalf of MTC to understand the barriers the public feels to riding transit. Shared understanding of the barriers people face will help us collectively work to overcome them, and bring people back to transit. However, the needs of Bay Area communities vary greatly depending on a variety of factors, especially income, ability, and access to a car. MTC has stated a commitment to equity, which requires understanding and addressing the specific needs of transit-dependent and historically disadvantaged communities. The needs of white collar commuters who are able to work from home indefinitely and have access to a car are vastly different from those who depend on transit to see family, go grocery shopping, and access medical care. In order to understand those needs, they must be identified specifically in the research.

Please amend the contract to include research specifically aimed at understanding the needs and barriers of transit-dependent people, low-income communities, communities of color, and people with disabilities.

Thank you,

Hayley Currier
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Member, Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force

Ellen Wu
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