

**TRANSIT RECOVERY
TASK FORCE**

TO: Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force & Board

DATE: February 1, 2021

Members of Large Transit Operators

FR: Jim Spering, Chair & Therese W. McMillan,

MTC/ABAG Executive Director

RE: Update on Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force

Thank you for taking the time out of your evening on February 1st to join us for a discussion and update on the work of the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force. We understand that your general managers have been updating you on this work as well and we greatly appreciate the energy that they and their staff have invested in this effort to date.

We want to start by acknowledging what an incredibly challenging time this is for the Bay Area's transit systems and the industry as a whole. Under your leadership, transit workers have risen to the challenge as essential workers, ensuring that those who rely on transit to access their various travel destinations can continue to do so. Bay Area operators have also worked together like never before, collaborating on health and safety and communications to reassure Bay Area riders that they can count on common safety standards as well as transparent reporting.

We are incredibly fortunate that Congress has recognized how critical public transit is during this pandemic, totaling over \$2.2 billion to the Bay Area alone, to help sustain the transit workforce and service, but we all know that this funding will eventually run out and transit's recovery from the ridership losses due to COVID-19 will not be easy.

Bay Area transit agencies faced challenges even before COVID-19. Ridership was falling for a variety of reasons and we recognized, as a region, that our current funding levels weren't adequate to provide the world class transit service that we need to meet our economic, social equity and climate goals. To succeed in our future efforts to secure additional funding, whether in Sacramento, Washington, or at the ballot, we will be in a much stronger position if we first take action to demonstrate our commitment to delivering more effective and coordinated transit service for the riders.

The Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force is exploring what changes are needed to re-shape the region's transit system into a more connected, more efficient, and more user-focused mobility network across the entire Bay Area and beyond. Attached is a presentation on the Task Force's work that we will present, along with a draft problem statement that was developed by a working group of the Task Force to help define the potential scope of a regional transit network manager.

We welcome your ideas and questions and look forward to the discussion.