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From: Bill Mayben [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 7:33 AM

To: MTC-ABAG Info <info@bayareametro.gov>

Subject: Public comment to the Draft 2021 MTC "Transportation Improvement Program" (TIP)

External Email

Dear MTC Board;

Before you affirm allocation of \$10.3 Billion dollars with your votes; consider our present context:

- We are in the darkest throes of a raging pandemic. This is not, should not be, by any stretch of the imagination, business as usual.
- We are in what is looking like a long term drought.
- Our forests, whole towns are burning for months. Our water supply will be threatened in many areas.
- We cannot provide housing for our population. This is foundational to human needs; food, clothing, shelter.
- Our statewide population of 175,000 homeless is growing.
- Family members are dying, our hospitals are near capacity, businesses and public agencies are going bankrupt, breadwinners are unemployed, families are being evicted, food insecurity is rampant.
- San Francisco has lost 20% of its population; with equivalent dislocation Bay Area wide. Public transportation ridership has dwindled. The streets are awash in red ink.
- If \$10.3 billion dollars were to be spent to further our sustainability and resilience; in line with where we are headed verses where we were; it should all be spent in public transportation and expanded internet access and capability. We need to both decentralize and reduce vehicle use rather than facilitate it.
- 70 years of roadway expansion efforts have proven that we cannot "improve" a failed transportation concept. Consider that every roadway improvement strategy has ultimately made the situation worse. This is called a poor track record for such investments.

You need to consider the possibility that approving the allocation of \$10.3 billion dollars in transportation infrastructure improvements at this point in time, in our present situation appears to some as failing to consider the context, our collective crisis.

We need to reorder our priorities. It may well be that on the inception of the TIP needs analysis; these improvements had the highest priority.

That was then, this is now.

I strongly suggest the MTC put this work in hold, and collaborate with the office of the Governor to ascertain potential reallocation of these funds toward the highest and best current needs, beginning in early 2021.

We have no obligation, given present societal and environmental facts, to support any preconceived established economic interests. It is our responsibility to yield to the highest and best current needs of the people of California.

Very Truly Yours,
Bill Mayben

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