

From: Ian Griffiths

Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 3:43 PM

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

Subject: Comment letter for 9/22 MTC Meeting, Item 13a. Transformation Action Plan

External Email

Hello,

Please find attached a joint comment letter co-signed by 15 groups that are part of the Voices for Public Transportation coalition for tomorrow's 9/22 MTC meeting, Item 13a, Transformation Action Plan.

Thank you,

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Ian Griffiths

Co-Founder & Director, Seamless Bay Area



September 21, 2021

Chair Alfredo Pedroza
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
375 Beale St
San Francisco, CA
94105

RE: September 22 MTC Meeting, Item 13a. Transformation Action Plan

Dear Chair Pedroza and Commissioners:

As members of Voices for Public Transportation - a coalition of community-based groups, labor, and equity advocates - we support several actions within the proposed Transformation Action Plan that both lay the groundwork for a major new funding source for Bay Area transit and help expand access to affordable transit for low income riders.

Convene stakeholders to guide a transportation funding ballot measure (Action 27)

Our organizations support the inclusion of Action 27 of the Transformation Action Plan - "Convene stakeholders to guide transportation funding ballot measure" as a step toward an inclusive rider- and worker-focused public process. We urge the commission consider the principles outlined in the [letter co-signed by 25 VPT member organizations and 13 Bay Area elected officials to the July 26 BTRTF meeting](#), also summarized as follows:

1. **Representative and rider-centric:** The multi-stakeholder process must prioritize the voices and priorities of key constituents of the transit system: riders and transit workers.
2. **Broad-based:** Decisions must be informed by extensive, iterative, and meaningful outreach to communities across the Bay Area, ensuring that outcomes and investments are shaped around these identified needs.
3. **Accessible:** Outreach must meet people where they live, work, and use transportation, and account for a variety of needs including disability, language, schedule, physical access, and childcare.
4. **Time sensitive:** A regional process must be initiated with sufficient time to allow for a full public engagement process, including iteration, so that a plan is ready for a 2024 ballot measure.
5. **Well-funded:** Strong outreach and equitable participation requires resources.
6. **Transparent:** Demonstrate that community feedback and priorities are central to and included in final decisions through ongoing, two-way communication.

We applaud the Commission for holding a workshop in October aimed at moving the 27 actions forward. As part of this workshop, please include an item on Action 27 that:

1. Clarifies a timeline up to a November 2024 ballot measure that includes ample time for a robust public process, so that Commissioners and stakeholders are on the same page about what's involved;
2. Describes where the planning process left off last year, and what the agency is prepared to do to ensure a successful ballot measure;
3. Includes a date for a regional measure-focused meeting or workshop before the end of the year.

Fund, develop, and adopt a Bay Area Connected Network Plan (Action 18)

We also wish to express support for Action 18, which calls for the creation of a “Bay Area Connected Network Plan that includes transit service and hub categories, core service networks (such as Rapid Transit), funding requirements, and next steps.” A Connected Network Plan is an important step needed to position a future ballot measure for success by providing members of the public with a clear vision of what the transit network of the future will look like. It's also critical for the identification of operations funding needs to run a better transit system, and has been associated with successful ballot measures in other regions. We encourage you to coordinate the Connected Network Plan with the public process for developing the regional funding measure.

Simpler, consistent, and equitable fare and payment options that attract more riders (Actions 1-3)

Third, we wish to support timely implementation of fair, integrated transit fares to create a simpler, more equitable fare system for Bay Area transit. Consistent with the directions of the current Fare Coordination and Integration Study, we support timely implementation and funding of fare policy programs that make transit more accessible and affordable for riders, such as discounts, free or discounted transfers, and fare capping.

Progress on these Actions, particularly Action 27, is in line with the [Voices for Public Transportation regional measure platform](#), and we look forward to the discussion and specific next steps on these items at the October workshop.

Thank you,

Peter Straus
San Francisco Transit Riders

Adina Levin
Friends of Caltrain

Dave Campbell
Bike East Bay

Ian Griffiths
Seamless Bay Area

Tina Martin
Mothers Out Front San Francisco

Helena Chang
Center for Independent Living (TheCIL)

Derek Sagehorn
East Bay Transit Riders Union

Brian Haagman
WalkSF

Richard Marcantonio
Public Advocates Inc.

Rev. Dr. Ray Pickett
Mary Lim-Lampe, JD
Genesis

Monica Mallon
Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action

Bob Allen
Urban Habitat

Hayley Currier
TransForm

Sheri Burns
Silicon Valley Independent Living Center

Kelsey Banes
Peninsula for Everyone