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October 25, 2021

RE: Commission Workshop: Building Transit's Future Together

Dear Commissioners:

At our September Commission meeting, we received the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force's 27-point Action Plan intended to accelerate the Bay Area's transit network transformation, integrating with recovery actions that are on-going in the wake of the pandemic. Given the unprecedented challenge facing transit operators and the pandemic's potential to undermine ambitious Plan Bay Area 2050 regional goals, I directed MTC staff to develop a comprehensive two-day workshop program so that Commissioners could become more familiar with the critical financial and policy choices available to our Commission and chart a united path forward with clear priorities and policy direction as the MTC staff and our transit partners proceed with implementation.

The workshop's initial day will create the context for the Commission's guidance on the Action Plan details. We are fortunate to have the insight of Assembly Member David Chiu whose inspirational motivation drove the work of the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force. In addition, public polling and survey trends affecting transit will be shared alongside information from both business leadership organizations and the transit operators themselves. A key element in our first day will be consideration of MTC's existing statutory authority and whether amending our current policies will be useful.

On the Workshop's second day, we will focus on near-term investments that will benefit transit riders, and the necessary portfolio of supporting resources. There will be time to explain how the upcoming Transit Network Management Business Case Analysis will be organized and delivered since it is a critical next step in the reform recommendations from the Task Force. We will complete our work by reviewing how this cross-cutting effort will be managed at the MTC Committee level.

I encourage each of us to review the Workshop Agenda and the Session attachments in advance of the two-day event. Several questions are provided in the slide deck for each topic area to offer you a head start on the critical thinking needed to overcome the historic inertia that has held back meaningful progress for too long.

Now is the time for our Commission to boldly commit to building back our transit network in ways that will serve existing riders and attract new ones. Let's keep growing the collaborative spirit generated during the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force's work. I truly appreciate the time and attention that this Commission is making in support of transit's critical role in our Bay Area future and begin this Workshop confident that we can set priorities and recommend policies needed to succeed. As it has been reiterated throughout this initiative, we must be "All Aboard", because it's going to take all of us to realize the transformative vision the Task Force delivered to us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AP', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Alfredo Pedroza
Chair

Attachments