

From: Jonathon Kass [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 4:58 PM
To: MTC-ABAG Info <info@bayareametro.gov>
Cc: Laura Tolkoff [REDACTED]; Ian Griffiths [REDACTED] Adina Levin
[REDACTED] Jason Baker [REDACTED] Gwen Litvak
Subject: Public Comment for Workshop Item

External Email

Please find the attached MTC Workshop public comment letter from SPUR, Bay Area Council, Seamless Bay Area, and Silicon Valley Leadership Group.

Best,
Jonathon

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Jonathon Kass
Transportation Policy Manager
[REDACTED]



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October 26, 2021

Re: MTC Workshop Discussion of Network Management

Dear Chair Pedroza and Commissioners:

The Transformation Action Plan marks an important turning point for transit in the Bay Area. For transit to survive and thrive in this new era of uncertainty--and against the backdrop of a climate emergency and growing inequality--we must reimagine it.

The Blue Ribbon Task Force recognized that the region's institutional setup prevents transit from being managed as an integrated network. Some responsibilities, such as marketing and wayfinding, can be done through purposeful collaboration, but other responsibilities, such as fare integration and multimodal network planning, require more direct authority and centralized accountability.

We encourage the Commission to boldly advance a more effective transportation governance structure that can deliver on the vision of integrated, rider-first transit.

As the preliminary network analysis shows, formal collaboration (network management) can improve some aspects of customer experience, but a regional network manager will likely do more to solve the region's integration challenges than formal collaboration provided through network management. A network manager that can set regional policy and ensure a frequent, reliable, and easy-to-use regional transit system. This approach is found in other places around the world, successfully growing ridership even in areas with relatively low densities and high rates of car ownership. Establishing a network manager to improve the regional transit network is one of the most transformative steps to improve the transit network. This approach is strongly supported by the public and may help build public confidence for future investments.

The pandemic forced the Bay Area to hold up a mirror to the way we organize and operate transportation. We commend MTC, transit operators, and legislators for collectively working through challenging but vital issues in the face of extraordinary circumstances.

Sincerely,

Laura Tolhoff
SPUR

Gwen Litvak
Bay Area Council

Ian Griffiths
Seamless Bay Area

Jason Baker
Silicon Valley Leadership Group