

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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December 11, 2024

Alfredo Pedroza, Chair

Diridon Station Joint Policy Advisory Board

Nick Josefowitz, Vice Chair RE:

MTC Comments on Long-Term Governance

Margaret Abe-Koga Cities of Santa Clara County

Dear Members of the Joint Policy Advisory Board (JPAB):

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

David Canepa

Eddie Abn

Cindy Chavez

Carol Dutra-Vernaci Cities of Alameda County

> Dina El-Tawansy California State Transportation Agency

Victoria Fleming

Dorene M. Giacopini

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Rebecca Kaplan Oakland Mayor's App

Matt Maban San Jose Mayor's Appointee

> Nate Miley Alameda Coun

> > Sue Noack

Stephanie Moulton-Peters

Marin County and Cities

Cities of Contra Costa Countr

Gina Papan Mateo County Cities of San Mateo C

David Rabbitt

Hillary Ronen City and County of San Francisc

> Libby Schaaf U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

> > James P. Spering

Andrew B. Fremier

Alix Bockelman

MTC staff would like to express support for the progress that has been made on the Diridon Station project through the business case work and appreciates the continued input of all partner agencies into the process. At MTC's December Programming and Allocations Committee meeting, staff is recommending that MTC enter into the interim co-operative agreement with the partner agencies. Following selection of a final design, MTC staff look forward to the project advancing through the environmental stage.

As the JPAB has discussed, another next step is to establish a long-term governance approach, formalizing an entity to lead the delivery stage of the Diridon Station project. The team assessed several models, with promise towards establishing a delivery authority similar to the one used to construct the Gold Line in Los Angeles. We are intrigued by this approach, not only for delivery of the Diridon Station project, but for the possibility that the entity could extend beyond Diridon to deliver other major projects in the region. Our interest is consistent with the topic of a 2022 Commission workshop focused on the challenges and opportunities of delivering major projects in the region. The Commission expressed the importance of better managing risk throughout project lifecycles - including having the staffing expertise to successfully deliver major projects - and developing funding strategies to prioritize and sequence funding requests among the many entities in the region. Establishing a delivery authority could help to build staffing expertise and capacity within the region to deliver major projects and reduce delivery risk.

MTC staff is also concerned that establishing a new project-specific delivery authority that is also charged with seeking funding would, in effect, create another transportation entity in the region, adding to the more than two dozen existing transportation authorities. This would serve to complicate an already competitive and uncoordinated regional grant and funding advocacy landscape.

As development and refinement of a long-term governance approach for the Diridon Station project advances, MTC staff request that the JPAB and soon-to-be-formed Steering Committee also evaluate the MTC staff considerations, including whether a delivery authority could have an option to focus on a broader portfolio of projects in the region, and whether grant and funding advocacy is best nested in the same authority and/or what refinements might be in place distinct from the peer delivery authorities considered to-date.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input and be part of the shaping of this important regional project.

Sincerely,

Andrew B. Fremier Executive Director

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