PUBLIC COMMENT Commission Agenda Item 8c

Dear Members of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission,

On June 12th, the Programming and Allocations Committee recommended programming \$72M in RM3 Dumbarton Corridor funds to a list of projects in Alameda County. This item, now before you as item 8c, has a critical problem that needs addressing.

ACTC submitted a \$105M project list, but MTC staff incorrectly informed committee members that ACTC had prioritized a subset of these funds. This misleading "pre-approval" message, repeated multiple times, precluded proper discussion of relative merit and led to the misconception that no due diligence was necessary.

This miscommunication has significant implications for the fair evaluation of these projects. The table below summarizes the projects submitted by ACTC and the corresponding programming recommended by the MTC Programming & Allocations Committee. It shows that certain projects remained unfunded due to perceived prioritization.

PROJECT	RM3 FUNDING REQUESTED IN ACTC LIST	Programmed by MTC	
		Total	% covered
BART PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT UC BART STATION	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	100%
DECOTO ROAD "COMPLETE STREETS"	\$18,200,000	\$18,200,000	100%
I-880/DECOTO INTERCHANGE MODERNIZATION	\$18,500,000	\$0	0%
QUARRY LAKES PARKWAY	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000	100%
THORNTON AVENUE "COMPLETE STREETS" & BAY TRAIL	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	100%
DUMBARTON BRIDGE TO QUARRY LAKES TRAIL	\$10,800,000	\$10,800,000	100%
SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY INTEGRATED RAIL PROJECT (Union City Intermodal Station)	\$14,500,000	\$0	0%
TOTAL	\$105,000,000	\$72,000,000	69%

It appears prioritization was performed in a non-public discussion for which neither ACTC nor MTC take responsibility. This is especially troubling as \$25M, which represents more than one third of the \$72M, are allocated to the highly controversial Quarry Lakes Parkway in Union City, which is unpopular among residents and garnered more than 1,000 signatures in a Change.org petition against it. There is no clear explanation for its prioritization or why the crucial I-880/Decoto Interchange Modernization project remained unfunded instead.

In response to my comment during the Programming and Allocations Committee meeting, chair Cindy Chavez proposed agencies submit a letter of support. However, the letter provided by ACTC lacks any statement of support and clarifies that ACTC has not prioritized among the oversubscribed projects.

While the other funded projects may not be controversial, I urge you to remove the Quarry Lakes Parkway from the proposed resolution and to defer to ACTC to agendize a proper public discussion and vote on how to prioritize between the Quarry Lakes Parkway and the I-880/Decoto Rd Interchange.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Flavio Poehlmann