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December 7, 2023

MICHELLE BOUCHARD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Andrew Fremier, Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

RE: Principles for Regional Measure

Dear Director Fremier,

On behalf of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain), we write to offer the position and perspective of the agency to inform your process going forward regarding shaping a regional measure for transit funding and the authorizing legislation related to that effort.

First, Caltrain deeply supports and continues to work toward better regional coordination and integration to improve the rider experience, including enhancing service frequency, schedule coordination, fare integration, seamless payment options, consistent signage, and communication efforts. Caltrain is supportive of the Regional Network Management process being led at Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and is committed to recommendations in the Transit Transformation Action Plan. We are also scoping a fare integration study with BART, and are engaged in other endeavors to improve rider experience and increase the ease of using transit in the Bay Area.

Any regional transit measure should first and foremost seek to improve the delivery of transit service and improve the rider experience and transit options for the voters. Unfortunately, MTC's recent conversations and polling regarding consolidation of specific transit agencies has detracted from the focus on improving the customer experience. We are also concerned about the lack of communication with the Caltrain Board regarding the consolidation of Caltrain and BART as any part of a regional measure, either in authorizing legislation or more generally. Consideration of consolidation as part of a regional measure is premature and threatens to hinder the real goals that we need to support around rider experience.

We want to make it clear that Caltrain opposes structural consolidation of Caltrain and BART. Furthermore, any discussion of a future consolidation of Caltrain with any other transit agency in connection with a regional measure should require the express support of the Caltrain Board and involve all three Caltrain member agencies as part of the discussion. Additionally, any analysis of the consolidation of Caltrain with another agency must include Caltrain representation and that analysis should focus on whether consolidation results in benefits for Caltrain riders and enhances the financial sustainability of the agency. Finally, voters in the three counties that passed Measure RR to fund Caltrain into the future deserve to be recognized and any consolidation regarding Caltrain must be subject to voter approval.

We would like to re-focus our attention on building a sustainable and positive transit future for the Bay

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Area. We request that in your discussions leading up to authorizing legislation and the goals and purpose of a regional measure, you communicate with both the Caltrain Board and Caltrain's member agencies in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties.

It is also important to note that the state is developing a Transit Transformation Task Force as part of SB 125 to look at a number of issues to improve transit delivery, rider experience, and accountability, including the consolidation of transit agencies. MTC should be mindful of that effort and not be overly prescriptive in its work on a regional measure in order to enable the region to benefit from that state level work.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and please do not hesitate to follow up with the Board as we welcome greater lines of communication between operators and our partners at MTC.

Sincerely,

Caltrain Board of Directors

Cc: Commissioners of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission