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Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 4:40 PM

To: MTC-ABAG Info <[info@bayareametro.gov](mailto:info@bayareametro.gov)>

Subject: Clipper Exec Bd Meeting 20 October, 2025

Commission Secretary, with thanks, please forward this message to the full Clipper Executive Board for the Regular Meeting of 20 October, 2025.

Greetings Board Chair Bob Powers and Members.

Aleta Dupree for the record, she, her, with Team Folds.

I bring you my comments regarding the work and mission of the Clipper Executive Board.

I share with you that my letter might be a bit cursory, given the Friday afternoon submission of the prepared Agenda. I share with you mostly on matters pertaining to a proposed implementation of Clipper 2 on a systemwide basis. I consider that our last scheduled Clipper Executive Board Meeting was cancelled. And there is much behind the scenes work that remains to be performed and completed.

I reflect on the pilot of open payments on BART which began on 20 August, 2025. I have used this pilot several times, with full understanding that adult fares would be charged. I found the system worked well, in both using plastic payment cards and mobile based cards as well. I was reminded of my many times using OMNY on New York City Transit, which operates North America's largest bus network and a famous rail transportation known as the Subway. You see, I like BART almost as much as I like the New York City Subway. I give the Subway such deference given that I have used the Subway since early 1970. Yet in finding performance of the BART open payments pilot to be satisfactory for me, I am indeed reminded of this foundational ideal, that BART is The Peoples System.

I admit that predicting what will happen with Clipper 2 is like the reading of tea leaves, though I have no idea how to read tea leaves, nor does that matter. I foresaw the possibility that Clipper 2 might be implemented piecemeal. Yet in my initial reading of this presentation, this looks to me like Clipper 2 will be turned on systemwide. In this, I expect to see use of open payments for adult fares grow, and quickly so. I see a gradual upward trajectory at first, which will then get steeper as users deplete their Clipper stored value balances.

I know there will be more work to be done after Clipper 2 is turned on. I feel the most important work to focus on next is enabling open payments for Reduced Fare Customers. You see, open payments can offer great benefits to our Senior and Disabled communities. I think back to when the OMNY in New York was turned on, I often and consistently shared of the importance of OMNY for Reduced Fares, and deep work was performed to bring that aspect of OMNY into full revenue service. I am looking for this same addition to be performed expeditiously here in our Clipper Program as well.

It is my hope that the proposed revenue service date will be met, and Clipper 2 will perform at least as expected. As much as I like hearing the words of Gerry Rafferty in “Get it Right Next Time”, in our work there is no next time. We have to get this right the first time. Perhaps Gerry Rafferty was thinking of New York City in working on his songs, not just on the street, but also in the Subway. I want this to get done right, because I am known for being a steadfast advocate of Clipper. I do not want the proverbial egg on my face. I am depending on this work to get done in a safe and timely manner, so we can all enjoy the benefits thereof.

I consider that our work with Clipper 2 might be the most complex project of its kind ever attempted. Yet once this is in service, I will be thinking of the future rather than dwelling on the past. I consider lessons learned, both in our work and also on other systems. Perhaps what we accomplish here will give me a clearer ideal in how to implement open payments in Grand Central Terminal, the world’s largest railroad station, which is located in New York City. And many are asking, how would open payments be practiced on the 44 platform positions of Grand Central Terminal? Such is easier said than done. I ask of you at your Meeting to ensure the importance of clear and understandable directions on the part of all concerned going forward. And our work is not just predicated on technical expertise but also founded in values. It is important to remember that the Subway is The System that is Legendary and Stately, and practices time honored ideals that are steeped in tradition and mindful of history. I expect everyone’s very best as we move toward the finish line, and to cross that line as a team. I look forward to what you all have to say on Monday.

Thank you.