

July 11, 2023

Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Programs and Allocation Committee  
Bay Area Metro Center  
375 Beale Street San Francisco, CA 94105

**Re: Item 3b- MTC Resolution Nos. 4584, Revised, and 4596-4602. Allocation of \$379 million in Regional Measure 3 (RM3) capital funds to ACTC, SMCTA, STA, and VTA**

Dear MTC Programs and Allocation Committee Members,

As the representatives who serve East San Jose, as City Councilmembers of Districts 5 and 8, and County Supervisor District 1, we would like to express our ardent support for this recommended funding allocation, which among other projects, would provide crucial funding to the Eastridge to BART Regional Connector which would be a massive stride in providing transit access and opportunities to East San Jose families. This project is located in East San Jose, which goes through our districts. This is a community of hard working diverse residents primarily of Latino/a/x, Vietnamese, and South Asian descent. This community has endured hardships and impacts for generations including redlining and public health crises. Residents of these neighborhoods deserve better, they deserve stable homes, healthy communities, and opportunities to utilize robust public transportation systems. **With intentionality towards racial equity and environmental justice, we urge this committee to support this resolution and move this funding allocation forward to move this project forward and strengthen both our city and our region's transportation network.**

Along with providing East San Jose residents the opportunity to access BART, this project also serves as one of multiple actions to create a sustainable and equitable land use ecosystem that directly supports the surrounding community. Neighborhoods such as Welch Park, Meadowfair and Cassell deserve healthy homes and sustainable communities and we are working every day through a variety of spaces to empower these communities. This project serves as a crucial component of that community centered vision.

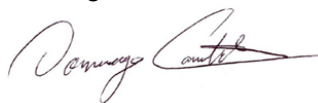
We look forward to continued support for transit solutions for working class communities and for the commission to support this resolution which directly furthers that intent. We would be more than happy to work collaboratively with this committee and/or MTC to continue to move this project forward.

Sincerely,

Peter Ortiz, San Jose City Councilmember, District 5



Domingo Candelas, San Jose City Councilmember, District 8



Sylvia Arenas, Santa Clara County Supervisor, District 1

