



CITY OF FAIRFIELD

Founded 1856

Incorporated December 12, 1903

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT Planning Division

Home of
Travis Air Force Base

June 27, 2016

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Mr. Ken Kirkey, Planning Director
Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: 2016 MTC/ABAG Scenarios for Plan Bay Area 2040

Dear Mr. Kirkey:

The City of Fairfield would like to express our appreciation for the opportunity to comment on the three scenarios prepared for Plan Bay Area 2040, namely the Main Streets Scenario, Connected Neighborhoods, and Big Cities. Our understanding is that all three scenarios would enable the Bay Area to potentially meet obligations for greenhouse gas reduction (SB 375), housing production, and economic growth.

The City of Fairfield has reviewed the proposed scenarios with our neighboring cities of Vacaville and Suisun City along with Solano Transportation Authority (STA) staff. Our consensus is that we generally support the Main Streets Scenario (Scenario 1). The scenario is consistent with both our Heart of Fairfield and Train Station Specific Plans for Priority Development Areas which will be a major focus for growth in the City of Fairfield over the next 25 years. We also believe this scenario will result in a more equitable distribution of "discretionary transportation spending" and includes a realistic recognition that "traditional" suburban growth will continue.

The City of Fairfield joins STA and the Cities of Suisun City and Vacaville in expressing concern about the transportation investments proposed for the second scenario, Connected Neighborhoods.

The three cities share several proposed transportation projects in common, namely the Jepson Parkway, I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange, and the Solano Express Bus Service Improvements. All three of these projects are included in the transportation improvements for Scenario 1 (Main Streets), and we agree with this inclusion.

Our concern is over the exclusion of all three projects from Connected Neighborhoods. Our three cities will be taking the lion's share of future residential growth in Solano County, and we expect some of the new residents of our communities to commute to jobs in the Bay Area. A combination of the regional

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express lane network with the interchange improvements and the express bus improvements create by far the greatest potential for these commuters to use some form of transit for their commute trips.

Not all of the trips through the Interchange or on Solano Express buses, or in carpools and van pools, will be residents from our cities commuting into the inner Bay Area. They will be commuting to jobs and classes in Vallejo and Benicia, just as residents of those cities will be coming to work, learn, and generally participate in life in our communities. No matter how those local trips are made – and the Solano Express Bus Service Improvements will make it much more attractive for those trips to be made by bus – they will mostly pass through the I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange. Many trips between our three cities can also take an alternative route if it is built – the Jepson Parkway, which links the three cities along their eastern borders, and avoids I-80. The Jepson Parkway is a bicycle- and transit-friendly corridor, with the new Fairfield/Vacaville Capitol Corridor train station at its center.

The Connected Communities scenario anticipates significant development in our three cities, although not as much as does the Main Streets scenario. The existing congestion in the I-80 corridor, from pass-through commuters, freight movement and Solano commuters, justifies the inclusion of the I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange, Solano Express Bus Improvements and Jepson Parkway projects in both scenarios.

The City of Fairfield does not support the Big Cities scenario. We do not believe this scenario represents a realistic framework for growth and will result in lack of investment in needed transportation infrastructure in Fairfield and Solano County. As in Scenario 2 (Connected Neighborhoods), the omission of Jepson Parkway, I-80/I-680/SR 12 and Solano Express Bus Improvements will have serious regional impacts.

The City of Fairfield looks forward to participating, along with other agencies and jurisdictions, in the discussion about Plan Bay Area 2040. If you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact Brian K. Miller on my staff at bkmiller@fairfield.ca.gov or 707-428-7446.

Respectfully,



KARL A. DUMAS
Director of Community Development

KAD:BKM:ccs