



TRANSBAY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Mark Zabaneh • Executive Director

June 30, 2020

Scott Haggerty

Chair

Metropolitan Transportation Commission

c/o Bay Area Metro Center

375 Beale Street, Suite 800

San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

Therese McMillan

Executive Director

Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Association of Bay Area Governments

Bay Area Metro Center

375 Beale Street, Suite 800

San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

Subject: Support for Caltrain Downtown Rail Extension in the first plan period of Plan Bay Area 2050

Dear Chair Haggerty and Executive Director McMillan:

As chair of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) Board of Directors, I am writing to express my support for including the Caltrain Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) in the first plan period of Plan Bay Area 2050 covering 2021-2035. This is consistent with the TJPA's project schedule, Caltrain's Business Plan Service Vision, and California High Speed Rail Authority's (CHSRA) 2020 Draft Business Plan. As described in the 2018 California State Rail Plan, the DTX project is critical to the Bay Area's rail network - extending Caltrain commuter rail from its current terminus at Fourth and King streets to Salesforce Transit Center and the BART/Muni corridor in downtown San Francisco. The project will deliver future high-speed rail service from Los Angeles to San Francisco as well as serve as the potential first leg of a new Transbay Rail Crossing to the East Bay.

Once DTX is complete, the transit center will bring an impressive number of regional and state transit systems under one roof, linking Caltrain and high-speed rail with nine other transit operators: AC Transit, BART, Golden Gate Transit, SFMTA Muni, SamTrans, WestCAT Lynx, Amtrak, Greyhound, as well as local paratransit service. The project will close a major gap in the Bay Area's transportation system with accessibility benefits for up to 90,000 new and existing Caltrain and high-speed rail passengers in addition to new and existing bus riders by 2040. It will relieve gridlock on US101/I-80, one of the most congested corridors in the Bay Area, and anchor growth in one of the region's most

robust and diverse Priority Development Areas, the Downtown SF/South of Market/Mission Bay area. Bringing rail to the transit center also leverages the region's prior investment in the facility and is key to its long-term financial stability, providing much needed relief to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and local transit operators who now heavily subsidize transit center operations.


The DTX is a complex project which requires partnerships among multiple agencies to realize. In May 2020, the TJPA, the MTC, Caltrain, CHSRA, the San Francisco's Mayor's Office, and San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) entered into the San Francisco Peninsula Rail Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) creating an integrated program management team to boost project delivery. This team of agencies will examine the project's cost-effectiveness including considering cost reduction, phasing and project delivery strategies and strengthened funding plans to identify an initial operating segment that can be constructed in the next 10 to 12 years.

With this MOU in place and work commencing, **it is critical that DTX be included in the first period of Plan Bay Area 2050**, from 2021-2035. The DTX received its Federal Record of Decision in July 2019, a major milestone that environmentally clears the project and facilitates its entry into the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts funding program. In addition to providing significant transportation benefits (particularly travel time savings for commuters), the project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 8.5 million metric tons of CO² per year, helping to meet the region's greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for 2035.

Significant local, regional, and state dollars have been committed to the project already, including San Francisco tax increment funding, regional bridge toll revenues, and San Francisco sales tax dollars. As one of the region's two New Starts priorities in the regional transit expansion plan, the project is well positioned to make significant progress in the next few years and can serve as a tool for the Bay Area's economic recovery by putting people back to work in several job sectors as well as investing in small businesses in the region.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to collaborating to improve connectivity for current and future transit riders across the Bay Area, the Northern California mega-region, and the state.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Nadia Sesay

Chair

Transbay Joint Powers Authority

cc: N. Josefowitz, H. Ronen, E. Ahn - MTC Commission
A. Bockelman, M. Maloney, D. Vautin – MTC
M. Zabaneh – TJPA
S. Elsbernd – San Francisco Mayor's Office
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