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Subject: MTC Plan Bay Area 2050
Date: Sunday, August 09, 2020 10:31:51 PM

External Email

To Whom it May Concern at MTC:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the MTC Plan Bay Area 2050 process. As a nonprofit provider serving frail elders and disabled populations, I am disheartened to read a plan that has a vision without disabled people and elders, the largest growing segment of our population. Accessible transportation for disabled and aging populations must be a part of our vision the same way bikers, pedestrians, and commuters going to work are. To leave them out is simply systemic ageism and ableism and we should use this opportunity to disrupt that pattern and embrace a vision that is inclusive of all members of our society.

I would like to point to a discrepancy between two MTC documents, the Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan) and the Plan Bay Area 2050. The Coordinated Plan accurately paints the following dire and alarming picture:

Current senior-oriented mobility services do not have the capacity to handle the increase in people over 65 years of age... the massive growth among the aging ...points to a lack of fiscal and organizational readiness...the closure and consolidation of medical facilities while rates of diabetes and obesity are on the rise will place heavy demands on an already deficient system.

In contrast the current Plan Bay Area 2050 documents have **no** language addressing this dangerous gap and complete lack of

readiness. As evidenced by MTCs own Coordinated Plan quoted above, this specific community need is not handled adequately by the conventional transit providers. As a result of this omission, the language addressing general transit improvements in the current PBA2050 docs are silent on transportation for older adults and persons with disabilities.

Sadly, this situation is not new. Accessible transportation service has remained stagnant and woefully under-addressed and underfunded while every other mode: bike, pedestrian, auto-based commuter, conventional transit riders receive the full benefit of MTC planning, lobbying, and funding.

It would appear that MTC is treating transportation for older adults and those with disabilities separately by having an entirely different transportation plan (the Coordinated Plan) for these classes of people. Predictably, this has resulted in unequal treatment for this mode of transportation and its riders, delaying and denying benefits to older adults and those with disabilities. For older adults, this results in “ageing out” of being considered in the regional plan. For your disabled constituents, they are never even considered in the first place.

The requirement to develop a Coordinated Plan doesn't suggest that you should then exclude elders and people with disabilities from MTCs routine planning and funding dialog. Doing this results in accessible transit being left out of the broader priority setting dialog with predictable results, service stagnation, delay/denial of benefits, and the Coordinated Plan "sitting on a shelf", while the rest of the transportation system advances.

Please include the issues identified in the Coordinated Plan in PBA 2050 and craft a policy and funding response that will, 1) address the funding and organizational problems adequately, 2) mitigate for decades of

systemic unequal treatment , and 3) through this effort, begin to dismantle the institutionalized ageism and ableism built into our transportation system.

These changes will result in a plan that is no longer ageist and ableist and will help to serve the largest growing segment of the population through inclusion in our vision for 2050.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to provide input and would respectfully request you reach out if you would like to explore inclusive options in this process.

Debbie

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