



TRANSBAY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Nila Gonzales • Interim Executive Director

July 20, 2020

Re: Draft Plan Bay Area 2050

To Whom It May Concern:

The Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) commends the actions of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) in undertaking Plan Bay Area 2050. We are pleased to be partners with MTC in this important process and recognize the tremendous regional benefits that can be realized through these collaborative, visionary and strategic efforts. Furthermore, we appreciate the continued support of MTC by including the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) project in the Draft Plan Bay Area 2050 and identifying this project in the draft Implementation Plan.

As we look ahead to 2050, we urge MTC to prioritize the following actions in its Plan Bay Area 2050 Implementation Plan:

1. Maintain strong support and advocacy for the DTX project, including:
  - Maintaining DTX as a priority project in any update to Resolution 3434, the Regional Transit Expansion Program;
  - Supporting RM-3 funds for DTX and allocate the funds as soon as possible to support DTX and Transit Center operations;
  - Continue to identify DTX as the priority Capital Investment Grants Program / New Starts candidate project for the Region, and support TJPA's New Starts application process while advocating for increased CIG and New Starts funding for regional projects; and
  - Supporting the TJPA's DTX funding applications for competitive discretionary programs such as California's Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program.
2. Support and advocate for new funding measures such as a regional measure for transit capital projects and operations, including a regional measure and San Francisco's sales tax renewal.
3. Marshall resources to complete "last mile" projects - Regional air quality, mobility and economic benefits will be realized once projects like DTX are in place. To achieve these goals, we ask for MTC's support in creating internal funding mechanisms which allow last mile projects to move to the front of the line so that last mile connectivity does not languish due to long wait times to access previously identified regional resources. We also encourage last mile projects to be prioritized for federal grant opportunities.
4. Support long-term operations and maintenance (O&M) of infrastructure investments - As we know all too well, infrastructure does not get better with age. To ensure that the important investments the region makes today are long-lasting, we recommend that MTC develop a regional O&M strategy that provides financial support to transit stations.

5. Promote safe and secure transit systems - Safety has always been, and will always be, the top priority for the transit community. However, funds to support transit security are scarce. We urge MTC to take a more active role in advocating for increased transit security funding at the federal level.

In partnership with MTC, we've delivered on the first half of the Transbay Program by constructing the iconic Salesforce Transit Center. Over the last decade, we have seen the addition of thousands of new housing units (which will total nearly 4,000 with 35% affordable), the 5.4 acre rooftop park and other new public open spaces, construction and leasing of new commercial spaces and the expansion of businesses in this burgeoning neighborhood. Through DTX, we are delivering on the last important component of the Transbay program by bringing an estimated 90,000 riders into downtown San Francisco from the regional Bay Area and the State, while further fostering the megaregion's economic vitality.

We need to deliver the regional vision planned over two decades ago by bringing rail service to downtown San Francisco through the DTX project. The trainbox has been built and we are ready to continue moving this project forward. As we work with our partners through the San Francisco Peninsula Rail Program Executive Steering Committee, we are working to secure funding to build on the momentum of the planning and engineering phases of the DTX project. With the launch of the Link21 project by the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority, the DTX project is an important linchpin to realizing the East Bay connection and megaregion's future integrated transportation system.

Again, we commend MTC for its leadership and are pleased to be a committed partner in moving the region forward. Thank you for the opportunity to shape regional goals in the Draft Plan Bay Area 2050.

Respectfully,



Nila Gonzales  
Interim Executive Director