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July 20, 2021

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The Honorable Alfredo Pedroza, Chair  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
375 Beale Street, Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

**SUBJECT: DRAFT PLAN BAY AREA 2050 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Dear Chair Pedroza,

On behalf of the Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority, we congratulate MTC and ABAG on completion of the Draft Plan Bay Area 2050 and Environmental Impact Report – a major milestone in the development of a 30-year long range plan for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The Draft Plan release advances the final phase of the PBA 2050 Implementation Plan, which focuses on concrete actions that MTC and ABAG can advance in the next one to five years for each of the plan's 35 adopted strategies. The Authority supports the proposed Plan and the adopted vision to “ensure by the year 2050 that the Bay Area is affordable, connected, diverse, healthy, and vibrant for all.” The Valley Link project is an important element of the proposed Plan and the Authority seeks a continued partnership with MTC/ABAG as this next critical phase of the Plan is advanced.

Valley Link will support the PBA 2050 Plan vision for a resilient and equitable future by serving the more than 97,900 Bay Area workers now commuting daily through the project corridor. It will meet an urgent need to connect affordable housing and people to prevailing wage jobs throughout the Bay Area and promote equity by serving communities and households with some of our states highest poverty rates. The project's 74 daily round trips will serve an estimated 33,000 daily riders in 2040 – a reduction of 141 million vehicle miles traveled per year and 32,220 to 42,650 metric tons of greenhouse gas – with further reductions as Board adopted TOD and Sustainability policies are advanced through final design. A key project goal is to be a model of sustainability in the design, construction and operation of the system – including the use of net zero emission vehicles and to the extent possible, operation on its own stored and created energy.

The Valley Link Project is included in the Final Blueprint Framework of PBA 2050 under Strategy T11 – Expand and Modernize the Regional Rail Network. It is identified as a project for implementation within the 2021 – 2035 timeframe. The Authority, along with its many project partners, continues to strongly support the inclusion of Valley Link in this near-term project timeframe. In support of strategy T11, the Authority has identified the following key areas of opportunity to collaboratively advance high priority focus areas of the Plan:



- The Authority is committed to collaborating with MTC and local, regional, and megaregional partners in the advocacy of funding for this important project.
- The Authority TOD policy will ensure that land use and access at Valley Link stations will support this investment. The Authority is committed to working in partnership to support the MTC TOD policy update.
- A key Authority goal, as identified in enabling legislation, is “project implementation that is fast, cost-effective and responsive to the goal and objectives of the communities it will serve.” The Authority will work with MTC/ABAG to evaluate project delivery that supports schedule adherence and reduced costs.
- Valley Link supports the CHSRA by providing near-term connectivity to the proposed Interim Operating Plan, providing intermodal connectivity at the proposed North Lathrop Station and the Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station. The proposed BART Bay Fair Connector Project, also identified as a T11 near-term project, will further support this interim access to the CHSRA with a potential “one-seat ride” on BART from the Tri-Valley to the Silicon Valley and a connection to Caltrain.

Valley Link is a transformational project that exponentially supports the advancement of PBA 2050. We look forward to further engagement with MTC and ABAG during the Partnership Phase of the project and look forward to collaboration on advancing the Valley Link project and the PBA 2050 Plan vision and key goals.

Sincerely,



Michael Tree  
Executive Director  
Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority

cc: [info@planbayarea.org](mailto:info@planbayarea.org)



Tri-Valley & San Joaquin Valley  
REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY

