



July 20, 2020

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Therese McMillan, Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street
San Francisco, CA 94104-2066

RE: SMART Projects in Plan Bay Area 2050

Dear Ms. McMillan,

On July 15, 2020, the Board unanimously voted to request the Metropolitan Transportation Commission amend the draft Plan Bay Area 2050 financially constrained transportation project list to include the following priority projects and to engage in a dialogue with MTC on how to reach that goal:

- SMART Windsor to Healdsburg
- SMART Healdsburg to Cloverdale
- SMART to Solano (Novato to Suisun)

The SMART Board of Directors affirmed authorization previously given for our submittal of the Plan Bay Area 2050 Commitment Letters sent to you in April for the SMART to Cloverdale and SMART to Solano projects.

As you know, SMART is committed to completing the Measure Q voter-approved SMART Rail and Pathway project. We have been successful in bringing outside funding resources into the Bay Area with that voter commitment and with the MTC as a strong partner.

We are under construction to Windsor and expect to carry passengers into Northern Sonoma County by late 2021. We have also secured much of the funding necessary to build the second Petaluma SMART Station at Corona Road from the private sector and anticipate that station to begin construction next year. With the completion of those two projects, SMART will be operating service to 14 of 16 stations, two more than were originally planned, leaving only Healdsburg and Cloverdale unfinished.

In addition to the voter approved project scope, the State of California and the County Transportation Agencies are in support of putting SMART's publicly-owned east-west rail line between Novato (Marin County) and Suisun (Solano County) to use as an alternative to car travel on the congested Highway 37 corridor.

The North Bay continues to recover from the fires of 2017 and 2019, which made an extreme housing shortage worse. The fires and PGE Public Safety Power Shut Off events were a tremendous test for the North Bay and the coronavirus pandemic will make economic recovery for many of Northern Sonoma County's small businesses and unemployed residents an even bigger challenge.

We are pleased that we will soon be allowed to participate in your regional low-income fare program through Clipper START. It is a good first step in being able to help people access quality jobs along our 70-mile corridor without having to first buy a car. In May, SMART conducted a survey with 3,281 respondents and 34% of them stated they were unemployed or were uncertain they would have employment after the pandemic. SMART stands ready to ensure that people can access jobs throughout the North Bay, providing flexibility as people seek work and a return to economic health.

We encourage you to support us to bring quality transit service to the northern part of the Bay Area by allowing us be in Plan Bay Area 2050's Financially Constrained Plan so that we may be able to compete for outside grant resources. We appreciate your willingness to consider the greater value of our system to the State and Bay Area, shifting people out of an auto-only approach to regional travel. With your endorsement, SMART will continue to work hard to bring the best product to the voters of Sonoma, Marin and the rest of the Bay Area.

We look forward to speaking with you regarding options and alternatives to ensure the North Bay is not left out of the Bay Area's resilient and equitable transit-centric future. If you have any questions, please call me at 707-794-3057.

Sincerely,



Farhad Mansourian
General Manager

Cc: SMART Board of Directors
Jake Mackenzie, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
David Rabbitt, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Damon Connolly, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Chad Edison, Chief Deputy Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
Alix Bockelman, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Suzanne Smith, Executive Director, Sonoma County Transportation Authority
Anne Richman, Executive Director, Transportation Authority of Marin
Joanne Parker, SMART