

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 4
111 GRAND AVE, MS-1A
OAKLAND, CA 94612
PHONE (510) 286-5900
TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov

RECEIVED**JUL 29 2020****MTC**

Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.

July 21, 2020

Ms. Therese McMillan
Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

Dear Ms. McMillan:

Following on to my letter of June 29, 2020, we have reviewed MTC/ABAG's July release of transportation projects recommended for Plan Bay Area 2050 (PBA 2050)/Final Blueprint, the Bay Area's next Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). This most recent list made regional discretionary funding recommendations for PBA 2050 and recommended that included projects be funded within Period 1 (2021-2035) or Period 2 (2035-2050).

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) remains concerned that the regional rail projects Sonoma–Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) to the City of Cloverdale and SMART to Solano County have not been included in the Final Blueprint. These regional rail investments are important elements of the State Rail Plan, in which California's priority of providing an integrated statewide rail network aligns well with both State and regional goals to support multimodal connectivity, economic productivity, and greenhouse gas reduction. In addition, these projects provide resiliency within corridors that do not have alternatives to long-distance travel via the highway.

In addition, the Caltrain Extension to Downtown San Francisco was proposed for funding in PBA 2050 Period 2. A service goal of the State Rail Plan is to complete the Downtown Extension to the Salesforce Transit Center, allowing future high-speed rail and regional transit services to serve the Center. As a member of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority, we support this project for funding at the earliest opportunity.

Ms. Therese McMillan

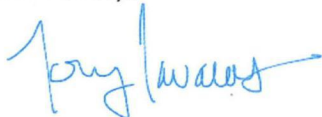
July 21, 2020

Page 2

Lastly, the Valley Link rail project connecting San Joaquin County with direct connection to Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) was proposed for funding in PBA 2050 Period 2. This is another example of a project where direct rail-to-rail connectivity helps advance an integrated statewide rail network. The Tri-Valley/San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority is currently collaborating with Caltrans on project development, and we also support this project for funding at the earliest opportunity.

Caltrans greatly appreciates MTC's commitment to performance management in PBA 2050 across a range of indicators linked to regional goals. Some additional factors are not easily captured in the performance reports, such as the statewide benefits of integrating regional rail systems per the State Rail Plan, as well as the benefits of corridor resiliency and improved access to alternative transportation modes. Please consider these additional factors as part of your decision-making, and we look forward to continuing to work with MTC toward advancing these projects. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Jean Finney, Deputy District Director, Transportation Planning & Local Assistance at (510) 286-6196.

Sincerely,



TONY TAVARES
District Director