

July 20, 2020

Scott Haggerty

Chair, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and

Therese McMillan

Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments

Bay Area Metro Center

375 Beale Street, ste 800

San Francisco, Ca 94105-2066

Subject: Inclusion of the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) into Stage 1 of Plan Bay Area 2050

Dear Chair Haggerty and Executive Director McMillan:

As Chair and Vice Chair of the TJPA Citizens Advisory Committee, we (Derrick Holt and Balal Aftab) have seen many compelling data points that speak to the community, environmental, safety and economic benefits of starting construction of the DTX in 2021. We strongly encourage the MTC to place the DTX in the first period of Plan Bay Area.

The TJPA CAC has the benefit of seeing these compelling data points in the forms of numerous engineering reports, presentations, safety & transportation reports, and financial analysis. We have heard from a number of community members voicing their transportation needs as it relates to: quality of life, the ability to use mass transportation to get to work, and the ability to work in the Bay Area. We have also heard from presenters of Vision Zero who connect reductions in traffic injuries and fatalities by the safety improvements that the DTX will bring to San Francisco.

The DTX is a solution to the problem of the gap between surrounding communities that can or cannot access downtown San Francisco, one of the few cities in the world with a higher daytime than evening population. This DTX is an essential link in the state's rail strategy that improves citizen mobility in the surrounding counties.

The DTX also promotes and supports state goals, as well as local and regional goals for environmental quality. TJPA CAC members have also seen and reviewed the plans that link the DTX to the multiagency, multiyear Rail Alignment and Benefits study.

We are aware of the current funding support that seems to be available now but may not be available should the DTX construction be delayed till years down the road. These delays will doom tens of thousands of commuters for 15+ years to a painful final commuting leg from 4th & King to downtown San Francisco.

Based on the data points and evidence, we encourage the MTC to place the DTX in the first period of Plan Bay Area which starts in 2021.

Respectfully,

Derrick Holt, TJPA C.A.C. Chair

Belal Y. Aftab, TJPA C.A.C. Vice Chair