



July 8, 2020

Santa Clara County Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Representatives:
Jeannie Bruins
Dave Cortese
Sam Liccardo

RE: Plan Bay Area 2050 and South Santa Clara County Transportation Priorities

Santa Clara County MTC Representatives:

On behalf of the City Councils and communities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy, we want to thank you for your service on the MTC. South County is thriving and we are excited about the continued collaboration with our partners – Valley Transportation Agency, Caltrain, and MTC to enhance transportation services offered to our communities.

In anticipation of MTC's review and approval of Plan Bay Area 2050, we wanted to share with you South Santa Clara County's transportation priorities (see attached). Our number one priority is expanding Highway 101 with an express lane to Highway 25. Highway 101 in South Santa Clara County is a bottleneck as drivers travel north in the morning to job centers and return home in the evening.

Our next most important priority is the modernization of the rail's tracks and fleet with electrification. Gilroy and Morgan Hill fully support this effort and want to ensure that plans for electrification include the service Caltrain provides to our Cities. Transportation options are very limited for the thousands of commuters that make their way daily from the South County to the metropolitan Bay Area. Caltrain will remain the primary mass transit choice in the future.

The center of Silicon Valley employment will continue to drive south, making train service paramount. We fully understand the difficulties of bringing electrification to the South County, not the least of which is the existing single track that is owned by Union Pacific Railroad. We are committed to working with our partners to overcome all obstacles.

We want to ask you to support these transportation priorities of expanding Highway 101 and electrification of the rails for South Santa Clara County. Thank you for the opportunity to collaborate and we look forward to working with you as partners into the future. We would be happy to further discuss our request at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Constantine".

Rich.Constantine
Morgan Hill Mayor
Rich.Constantine@morganhill.ca.gov

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roland Velasco".

Roland Velasco
Gilroy Mayor
Roland.Velasco@ci.gilroy.ca.us



Larry Carr
Morgan Hill Council Member
VTA Board Member

DocuSigned by:

9EE7CEC2F0D8427...

Marie Blankley
Gilroy Council Member
VTA Board Member (Alternate)