

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.

June 29, 2020

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

Dear Ms. McMillan:

We have reviewed MTC/ABAG's recently released initial list 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). As you know, projects are grouped into three categories: "Include," "Consider" and "Exclude." Caltrans is concerned that several projects we support are currently not in the "Include" category.

Specifically, the following State highway projects in the "Consider" category are of concern to Caltrans:

- I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange Project
- SR 37 Resilience and Widening Project
- SR 262 Cross Connector Project
- I-680 Multimodal Improvements

Transit and Rail projects include SMART to Cloverdale, SMART to Solano, and ACE's Altamont Corridor Vision. The Dumbarton Rail project is also being considered for exclusion. Each of these regional rail investments are important elements of the California State Rail Plan, which envisions a unified statewide rail network that better integrates passenger and freight service, connects rail to other modes, and supports smart mobility.

In addition, we are concerned that the Bay Bridge West Span Bike Path project is labeled as having "Major" equity challenges, when the span's bike path

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connects to disadvantaged communities in San Francisco and West Oakland. E-Bike programs are being considered in the area, and subsidies to e-bike programs in these disadvantaged communities should be considered as well.

These projects are in alignment with State policies and goals, and advance priorities identified in the California Transportation Plan (CTP) 2040, statewide modal plans such as the 2015 Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP), State Rail Plan, and the 2020 California Freight Mobility Plan (CFMP). We have been coordinating with MTC and the Country Transportation Agencies (CTA) for many years on a number of these projects. Some projects also recently received funding from various State programs including the SB 1 Competitive Programs.

All of these projects are consistent with State goals and priorities such as improving safety, mobility and reliability of the transportation system, responding to climate change impacts, supporting freight systems and economic prosperity, and promoting more sustainable modes of transportation. Excluding this important group of projects from PBA 2050 would also disqualify them from receiving future federal and State funding.

Therefore, with CTA support, Caltrans strongly recommends moving these projects to the "Include" category from the "Consider" or "Exclude" category and listing them in the Final Blueprint of PBA 2050.

We look forward to working with MTC toward inclusion of these projects. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (510) 286-5900 or Jean Finney, Deputy District Director, Transportation Planning & Local Assistance at (510) 286-6196.

Sincerely,



TONY TAVARES
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

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