June 1, 2017

Ken Kirkey, MTC
Miriam Chion, ABAG
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Kirkey and Ms. Chion,

The City of Pleasanton appreciates this opportunity to submit comments on the Draft Plan Bay Area 2040. The City of Pleasanton, along with the Cities of Dublin and Livermore, are situated in a region that interconnects the greater Bay Area with the San Joaquin Valley which serves as a key commute corridor between jobs and housing. The Tri-Valley itself has experienced an increased amount of economic and housing growth, as well as, growth in traffic congestion. We believe this trend will continue into the future as more people will continue to venture inland to find affordable housing. It is imperative that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) work with the Tri-Valley Cities to address these issues to head-on to address the rapid growth of the region.

The City appreciates the Plan’s funding commitment for transit operations as a whole. However, it is clear that the distribution of transit improvements funds are heavily favored along the Peninsula and Silicon Valley. This is a missed opportunity to work with the Tri-Valley Cities and the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) to identify transit network improvements that could support the rapid growth of this region.

While we encourage MTC to address transit equity in the Tri-Valley in the long term, this region’s stakeholders recently explored opportunities to improve and increase transit usage within our existing network through the “Tri-Valley” Integrated Transit and Park-And-Ride Study. The goal of the study is to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips and vehicle miles travelled to and through the area by identifying improvements to the region’s park-and-facilities and transit connectivity services. While still in draft form, the study identified several potential short term measures:

- Initiate high-frequency shuttle service during peak commute period from the Airway park-and-ride lot to the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station as a pilot test of the service concept.
- Construct a new park-and-ride lot at Bernal Avenue.
- Construct a new parking garage at the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station adding 550 net new spaces to the existing parking capacity at the station.
- Deploy ITS enhancements to better integrate transit and park-and-ride facilities more closely together, including: transit signal priority treatments; real-time vehicle arrival/departure information: and real-time parking occupancy information.
- Implement parking pricing and management strategies to maximize facility utilization and to make payments, pricing integration, and enforcement both easy and cost-effective.
The study also identified potential long term measures:

- Expand the park-and-ride lot at Airway to 500 spaces. When the BART extension to Livermore occurs in the long-term, it is anticipated that the expanded Airway lot would be converted to parking for the new station and the shuttle service would no longer be needed.
- Add high-frequency peak period shuttle service from the Bernal lot to the West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station.
- Construct a new park-and-ride lot at Greenville Road and provide high frequency peak period shuttle service to the nearest BART station (Dublin/Pleasanton or a new Livermore station).
- Extend ITS improvements and parking management strategies to new park-and-ride lots, as appropriate.

The consideration and inclusion of the above short and long term measures in the Draft Plan Bay Area 2040 could provide some transit equity in the Tri-Valley to support the region’s projected growth. We encourage MTC and ABAG to explore this opportunity further.

In addition to this, the City of Pleasanton would like to reiterate the support of Bart to ACE as the highest priority commute alternative for the Tri-Valley and will continue to encourage support for this project throughout the region. We request this project be included in Plan Bay Area 2040.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on the Draft Plan Bay Area 2040. If you have any questions, please contact Cedric Novenario, Senior Traffic Engineer, at (925) 931-5667 or cnovenario@cityofpleasntonca.gov.

Sincerely,

Mike Tassano
Deputy Director of Community Development, Transportation