

August 5, 2020

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

**Subject: ACE Service Expansion Program in Plan Bay Area 2050**

Dear Ms. McMillan:

The City of Fremont requests that MTC include expanding ACE service by 4 additional round trips in Plan Bay Area 2050. We specifically ask that:

- Period 1 (before 2035) of Plan Bay Area 2050 have 2 additional ACE round trips between the Central Valley and San Jose (6 total ACE daily round trips), and
- Period 2 (after 2035) of Plan Bay Area 2050 have 2 additional ACE round trips between the Central Valley and Fremont/Union City/Newark (8 total ACE daily round trips).

This request is a minor, incremental improvement of the ACE commuter rail service which has well served the Bay Area for over twenty years.

MTC estimates that 63% of job growth in the Bay Area between 2015 – 2050 will be in the counties of Santa Clara (44%) and Alameda (19%). ACE's biggest markets are carrying workers to and from jobs between the Central Valley, Alameda County and Santa Clara County.

The City of Fremont is particularly impacted by auto commuters that cut-through our local streets due to congested conditions on I-680 (Sunol Grade) and SR 84 (Niles Canyon). An enhanced ACE service has the benefit of reducing regional cut-through traffic, allowing Fremont to help meet a Plan Bay Area goal to "create healthy and safe streets". Improved ACE service also supports goals to "enhance regional and local transit" and "reduce our impact on the environment". ACE expansion is consistent with the 2018 State Rail Plan, as well as the Fremont Mobility Action Plan (approved in March 2018).

The MTC Board Action on July 22 "creates some fiscal capacity in Period 1 to assign funding to some additional transportation strategies" (page 10 of MTC staff report for Item 8A). There is strong support in the Bay Area and in the Megaregion for expanding ACE service and ACE expansion should be one of transportation strategies included in Period 1. The City of Fremont strongly supports ACE expansion and we urge MTC to include the ACE Service Expansion Program in both Period 1 and Period 2 of the Plan Bay Area 2050.

Sincerely,



Hans Larsen  
Public Works Director

