

## Comments on Draft Plan Bay Area 2050

Mayor Marie Blankley <Marie.Blankley@ci.gilroy.ca.us>

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To: info@planbayarea.org <info@planbayarea.org>

**\*External Email\***

To: MTC/ABAG Directors and Committee Members

RE: Draft Plan Comments, Parking Policy Connection to Plan Bay Area 2050

Given the role that parking plays in meeting transportation and land use goals, I ask for your support and assistance to the local jurisdiction of Gilroy to maintain transit parking at our only transit center site. Gilroy is in the county of Santa Clara and looks to Valley Transportation Authority for public transit. VTA owns the 7.38-acre site that is Gilroy's transit center, including the 4 Caltrain storage tracks and the station building that we have had declared a historical landmark. That site has 471 existing parking spaces that are currently under-utilized because the transit center is not yet viable. It does not qualify as high-quality transit but for a single bus, Line 68, with 15-minute intervals, and it is not near job-rich areas. VTA staff is proposing TOD on this site on the basis that it will generate 87 additional daily bus trips and 26 for Caltrain, far below the rider potential from a city of 60,000 that would be the transportation hub serving South Santa Clara County with rail/bus connections in all directions, if only adjacent parking remained. For a transit center to be viable, adjacent parking is more important than housing.

Through our TAC representative, Gilroy's city staff participates in the development of a Parking Policy Playbook that will serve to assist us and other local jurisdictions with parking policy resources to implement Plan Bay Area 2050. At issue in this comment letter, however, is preserving the adjacent parking necessary for a transit center to be viable before housing replaces Gilroy's only transit center. Housing at this site would threaten, not enhance, public transportation viability in Gilroy.

Gilroy has over 300 affordable housing units under construction right now. We embrace RNHA allocations and strive to meet them. In order to manage the current and increasing demand for driving, public transportation options are critical for our residents, options we don't currently have and will never have without the ability to park and ride.

Thank you.

Marie Blankley, Mayor  
City of Gilroy