

August 14, 2020

Scott Haggerty, Chair  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
375 Beale St, Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

**Re: Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) Service Expansion Program  
Plan Bay Area 2050**

Dear Chair Haggerty:

On behalf of the Tri-Valley Chamber of Commerce Alliance, we request that MTC include expanding ACE service by 4 additional round trips in Plan Bay Area 2050. This includes the addition of 2 ACE round trips between the Central Valley and San Jose (6 total ACE daily round trips) in Period 1 (before 2035) of Plan Bay Area 2050, and adding 2 more ACE round trips between the Central Valley and Fremont/Union City/Newark (8 total ACE daily round trips) in Period 2 (after 2035) of Plan Bay Area 2050. This incremental improvement of the ACE commuter rail service offers an effective, and meaningful alternative to commuters from the automobile, contributing towards reductions in traffic congestion and to greenhouse gas emissions in the I-580 and I-680 highway corridors. ACE expansion is consistent with the 2018 State Rail Plan, complements the proposed Valley Link project, improves connectivity with the planned Merced-Bakersfield High Speed Rail Interim Operating Segment, and improves the viability of the future new Transbay Crossing.


Over the past twenty years, ACE commuter rail service has connected workers along its route between the Central Valley and Silicon Valley, to their jobs in the San Francisco Bay Area region. Business recognizes the importance of ACE in the region's transportation network which is critical to a sustainable and strong economy. In 2019, ACE carried more than 6,000 riders a day with only 4 daily round trips. MTC estimates that 44% of job growth in the Bay Area between 2015 – 2050 will be in Santa Clara County. ACE's biggest markets are carrying Alameda County and Central Valley workers to/from jobs in Santa Clara County. And during the COVID-19 pandemic, anecdotal evidence implies a migration of Bay Area residents to the Central Valley region. ACE is the only passenger rail service directly connecting the Tri-Valley and the Central Valley to Santa Clara County.

In addition to reductions in vehicle miles traveled, traffic congestion and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as well as improved air quality, the expanded service also offers greater opportunities for transit-oriented development in the Altamont Corridor.

The MTC Board Action on July 22 “creates some fiscal capacity in Period 1 to assign funding to some additional transportation strategies to achieve equity and GHG outcomes”. There is strong support in the Bay Area and in the Megaregion for expanding ACE service and ACE expansion is a transportation strategy that should be included in Period 1.


The Tri-Valley Chamber of Commerce Alliance deeply appreciates your leadership and the due diligence of the Commission and its staff in meeting the expectations of a 21<sup>st</sup> century vision for the economy. We strongly support the ACE expansion and we urge MTC to include the ACE Service Expansion Program in both Period 1 and Period 2 of Plan Bay Area 2050.

Respectfully,

  
Livermore Valley  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE  
Dawn P. Argula, CEO

  
danville area  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Zae Perrin, CEO

  
Dublin  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Inge Houston, CEO

  
PLEASANTON  
CHAMBER of  
COMMERCE  
Steve Van Dorn, CEO

  
SAN RAMON  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE  
Stewart Bambino, CEO

C: Therese McMillan, Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Alix Bockelman, Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Dave Vautin, Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Stacey Mortensen, ACE  
Tess Lengyel, Alameda County Transportation Commission