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May 24, 2017

Steve Heminger, Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Brad Paul, Deputy Executive Director, Association of Bay Area Governments
375 Beale Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: Alameda CTC Comments on Plan Bay Area 2040 Draft Plan

Dear Mr. Heminger and Mr. Paul,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Plan Bay Area (PBA) 2040 Draft Plan, the region's long range regional transportation plan and the second Sustainable Community Strategy. We commend MTC and ABAG staff for their robust planning effort with extensive collaboration to achieve this major milestone. Alameda CTC has worked with your staff closely throughout the Plan development process and appreciates the responsiveness of your staff in coordinating with us and addressing our concerns. We offer the following comments on the Draft Plan.

Transportation Investments

The Draft Plan transportation investment strategy reflects the multimodal transportation needs of our county captured through specific capital projects, operating and maintenance investments, programmatic projects and various programs our agency or other partners implement. Alameda CTC appreciates MTC staff working collaboratively with us in developing the investment strategy that strives to meet a broad set of performance goals and reflects local priorities. Alameda CTC is focused on advancing priority projects included in PBA2040 in the near term in order to capitalize on new and proposed funding such as Senate Bill 1 and Regional Measure 3, and to leverage our local funding to deliver projects and fulfill our commitment to our voters as quickly as possible.

Alameda CTC was pleased to see the emphasis on goods movement reflected in the overall Draft Plan and investment strategy. This fully aligns with the collaborative and extensive effort Alameda CTC and MTC undertook following the approval of the first Plan Bay Area in 2013 to develop regional and countywide goods movement plans. The Draft Plan and investment strategy reflect a renewed commitment to supporting both goods movement infrastructure as well as programs that reduce the negative impacts goods movement can have on local communities. Alameda CTC looks forward to continuing to partner with MTC and other regional partners to advance goods movement projects and to advocate for additional funding that is critical to realizing the goals included in both the regional and countywide goods movement plans.

Action Plan

Alameda CTC supports the Action Plan included in the Draft Plan, and believes that the Action Plan identifies an appropriate set of high priority issues facing the region. Housing, Economic Development and Resilience are key challenges in Alameda County and much of the region, and a coordinated regional effort to engage a diverse set of partners in developing and advancing solutions is paramount to the Bay Area's ability to remain an exceptional place to live and work.

Housing affordability continues to be a central issue many of our cities are actively grappling with. Alameda CTC encourages MTC and ABAG to engage early and often with the local jurisdiction planning departments as you seek to advance housing policies and programs. The local planning departments have a strong sense of the issues facing their communities and the constraints to housing, and will be critical partners in advancing and implementing future programs.

Alameda CTC is very pleased and strongly supportive of the Economic Development component of the Action Plan, including the specific mention of the importance of goods movement to the regional economy. Alameda County has a diverse employment base, and goods movement continues to be a major contributor to the job diversity in the county. As the region looks to build an economic development strategy, Alameda CTC encourages you to continue to support a diversity of employment sectors and to engage with economic development and business groups from throughout the region.

Given Alameda County's extensive shoreline, which includes significant infrastructure that is vulnerable to sea level rise, Alameda CTC appreciates that Resilience is one of the three components of the Action Plan. Portions of Alameda County were part of the original Adapting to Rising Tides efforts, and we look forward to working with MTC, ABAG and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission to advance that work and protect the infrastructure investments and critical community connections present throughout our shoreline.

We look forward to continuing to work with MTC and ABAG in implementing PBA 2040 generally, and the Action Plan specifically.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or Tess Lengyel, Deputy Executive Director of Planning and Policy (tlengyel@alamedactc.org; 510.208.7428), of my staff.

Sincerely,



ARTHUR L. DAO
Executive Director

cc: Ken Kirkey, MTC
Miriam Chion, ABAG
Matt Maloney, MTC