June 2, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8630  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon  
Assembly Speaker  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
1021 O Street, Suite 8518  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom, Chair Senator Skinner, Chair Assemblymember Ting, Senate President Pro Tem Atkins, and Assembly Speaker Rendon,

Public transportation systems across California like BART, SFMTA, AC Transit, Caltrain, LA Metro and Metrolink, are facing major budget shortfalls in the aftermath of the pandemic. While the Governor and legislative leaders have acknowledged the need to address the funding shortfall, the latest budget proposals do not provide nearly enough. The Governor proposed no funding for the fiscal cliff and instead proposed cutting $2 billion in transit capital funding - money that is critical to leveraging billions in federal funding for our transit systems’ long term viability. The legislature’s budget proposals restores that capital funding, but does almost nothing to support transit operations. If transit operations are not supported with significant new state funding, transit agencies will be forced to implement devastating service cuts from which they may never recover.

Massive transit service cuts will be a disaster for everyone. Low-income families that rely on public transit will become isolated from economic opportunity. Seniors will not be able to get to the hospital, and kids won’t be able to get to school. Drivers across the state would face increased congestion as hundreds of thousands more riders are forced into unnecessary car trips. Downtowns will continue to hollow out, as businesses won’t be able to attract workers or customers. And ultimately our planet will suffer from increased emissions at a time where our state should be leading the nation in addressing our climate emergency change.
As local elected leaders, we know how much our communities, constituents and local businesses rely on transit. That’s why we urge you to craft a budget solution that avoids massive transit service cuts, and implement critical reforms that put transit agencies on a path to fiscal sustainability and to better serve Californians in the future.

Sincerely,

Nick Josefowitz
Vice-Chair, MTC

Jen Wolosin
Mayor, City of Menlo Park

Rebecca Saltzman
BART Director, District 3

Rashi Kesarwani
Councilmember, City of Berkeley

Carolyn Wysinger
Councilmember, City Of El Cerrito

Rigel Robinson
Councilmember, City of Berkeley

Mark Humbert
Councilmember, City of Berkeley

Terry Taplin
Councilmember, City of Berkeley

Paul Fadelli
Councilmember, City Of El Cerrito

Devin Murphy
Mayor, City of Pinole

Jim Spering
Commissioner (Solano County), MTC

David Rabbitt
Supervisor, County of Sonoma

Susan Noack
Councilmember, City of Pleasant Hill , Commissioner (Contra Costa County), MTC

Victoria Fleming
Council Member Santa Rosa

Eddie Ahn
Commissioner (San Francisco County), MTC

Libby Schaaf
MTC Commissioner
Former Mayor, City of Oakland

Margaret Abe-Koga
Councilmember, City of Mountain View

Jesse Arreguin
Mayor, City of Berkeley

Matt Dorsey
Supervisor (District 6), City and County of San Francisco

Hillary Ronen
Supervisor (District 9), City and County of San Francisco
Nate Miley  
Supervisor (District 4), Alameda County  

Diane Shaw  
Board of Directors (Ward 5), AC Transit  

David Oro  
Councilmember, City of American Canyon  

Sergio Lopez  
Councilmember, City of Campbell  

Carlos Romero  
Councilmember, City of East Palo Alto  

Stacy Jimenez  
Councilmember, Foster City  

Jen Caenaugh  
Mayor, City of Piedmont  

Laura Nakamura  
Councilmember, City of Concord  

Omar Din  
Vice Mayor, City of Sunnyvale  

Maria Doerr  
Councilmember, City of Menlo Park  

Victor Aguilar  
Councilmember, City of San Leandro  

Ariel Kelley  
Mayor, City of Healdsburg  

Amit Pal  
Councilmember, City of Suisun City  

Tessa Rudnick  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of El Cerrito  

Princess Washington  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Suisun City  

Buenaflo Nicolas  
Mayor, City of South San Francisco  

David Cohen  
Councilmember, City of San Jose  

Kalimah Priforce  
Councilmember At-Large, City of Emeryville  

Kevin McDonnell  
Mayor, City of Petaluma  

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Supervisor (District 8), City and County of San Francisco  

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Deborah Ruddock  
Councilmember, City of Half Moon Bay  

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Councilmember, City of Berkeley  

Andy Kelley  
Boardmember, Rent Stabilization Board, 
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Vice Mayor, City of San Carlos
Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Mayor, City of Alameda

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John Bauters
Mayor, City of Emeryville

Larry Klein
Mayor, City of Sunnyvale

Tom Hamilton
Vice Mayor, City of San Bruno

Soheila Bana
Councilmember, City of Richmond

Dan Kalb
Councilmember, City of Oakland

Zach Hilton
Councilmember, City of Gilroy

Cameron Sasai
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Alison Hicks
Mayor, City of Mountain View

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Christine Krolik
Mayor, Town of Hillsborough

Kate Harrison
Councilmember, City of Berkeley

Steve Young
Mayor, City of Benicia

Stephen Zollman
Councilmember, City of Sebastopol