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December 18, 2023

Andrew Fremier, Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

RE: 12/20/23 Agenda Item 9a: Regional Transportation Measure-Caltrain Consolidation

Dear Mr. Fremier:

On behalf of the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County, I write to express C/CAG's strong desire to be a partner in the development and passage of a multimodal regional measure that would bring much needed funding to San Mateo County and the regional transportation system.

However, the C/CAG Board has concerns about recent discussions related to the consolidation of Caltrain and BART. Our priority should be securing regional alignment on a ballot measure that supports and enhances transit, invests in safer streets and climate resiliency, and improves travel times and commutes. Discussions about a potential structural consolidation of BART and Caltrain distract us from securing regional alignment on the ballot measure.

Transit is a critical element of our County and Regional multimodal transportation system. We recognize and support Caltrain's efforts on regional coordination and integration to improve the rider experience, including enhancing service frequency, schedule coordination, fare integration, seamless payment options, connections where BART and Caltrain converge, and consistent signage.

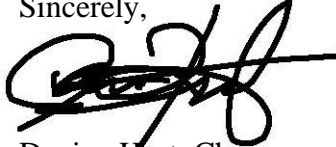
Recently, Caltrain completed a lengthy governance review process and negotiated a solution among its three contributing counties. Caltrain and its member agencies are in the early stages of implementing that governance agreement. Having put the governance issue in its rearview, Caltrain has been intently focused on completing fully electrified, zero emission service between San Francisco and San Jose by Fall 2024, as well as a fare integration study jointly undertaken by BART and Caltrain. The latter effort, in fact, largely stems from MTC's Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force.

Additionally, the state of California will soon undertake an effort through CalSTA's Transit Recovery Task Force to explore the current metrics and formulas for funding transit, evaluate

how transit agencies operate in California, determine what data and information would better help State and local agencies make funding decisions, discuss strategies for increasing ridership, and look at situations where consolidation makes sense.

Now is not the time for controversial distractions that might jeopardize our common goal of securing much-needed regional funding. Again, C/CAG looks forward to our work together. Thank you for your consideration and please contact Sean Charpentier, C/CAG Executive Director at scharpentier@smcgov.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Davina Hurt', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Davina Hurt, Chair
City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County

cc:

Caltrain Joint Powers Board and Michelle Bouchard, Executive Director, Caltrain
SamTrans Board and April Chan, General Manager & CEO, SamTrans
Rosanne Foust, SAMCEDA
Senator Josh Becker
Senator Scott Wiener
Assemblymember Phil Ting
Assemblymember Diane Papan
Assemblymember Marc Berman