

From: Regina Islas [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 15:26:59

To: MTC-ABAG Info <info@bayareametro.gov>

Subject: Metropolitan Transportation Commission Agenda Item Number 12a

Dear Commissioners:

I am a Bay Area resident and a lifetime transit rider, a member of the Voices for Public Transportation Coalition. We have been advocating for a progressive, operations-focused, climate-positive transit measure for over five years and are glad that it is closer to becoming a reality. It appears that poll results are showing positive trends; with people more supportive of a transit measure than in October. Tax sensitivity has dropped almost 10% since 2023, and hopefully by 2026 that number will be even lower.

Poll results are evidence that voters want to see improvements to our transit system, more than merely preventing cuts. Proposed solutions must support transit improvements. The poll also shows that voters support more funding for transit, and given that the biggest concern is cost of living so voters would support a progressive business tax that would not make life more expensive for Bay Area residents.

The Select Committee never reached a consensus on the principles, and there should be a strong set of principles as an end result of this meeting. I hope MTC will vote to include an equity principle so funding will be distributed equitably across the transit agencies. AC Transit and MUNI are currently carrying approximately 75% of transit trips between the four largest agencies, and they require funding to bring back service to pre-pandemic levels.

It is clear from the polling results that a strong measure that improves our transit system can win at the ballot box. The MTC should enthusiastically embrace such a measure.

Sincerely,

Onward together,

Regina S Islas

[she/her]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]