

May 19, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Contra Costa Transportation Authority – Mega Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of Contra Costa Transportation Authority's (CCTA) Mega grant application requesting \$395 million to fund their "680 Forward" project. The project will address congestion, improve safety, and increase access for all transportation users along Interstate 680, a backbone corridor for the Bay Area.

I-680 is one of the major north-south corridors in the San Francisco Bay Area and has been one of the top five most congested corridors for the last ten years. The corridor experiences significant delays and inconsistent flow of traffic in both directions. These delays are expected to continue in the foreseeable future. 680 Forward includes a suite of projects, including transit improvements, active transportation enhancements, congestion relief strategies, and innovative concepts to modernize mobility along the corridor. These components include zero-emission express bus service, shared mobility hubs, transit bus-on-shoulder lanes, bicycle and pedestrian overcrossings, a completed express lane network, I-680/State Route 4 interchange improvements, technology tools to encourage better integrated mobility across different modes of transportation, and new mobility options for elderly and disabled populations.

It is my understanding that these combined projects will have significant environmental, equity, and economic benefits, and increased mobility options that are of major interest to the local community. Reducing congestion, investing in transit, transitioning to alternative fueling, and improving non-motorized transportation options will positively mitigate climate change. Improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, developing mobility hubs, and investing in affordable transit will create a more socially equitable community and give disadvantaged community members more transportation access. Economic benefits will be seen by making job centers along the corridor more accessible, especially for those traveling from disadvantaged communities.

I urge your full and fair consideration of CCTA's application consistent with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Please keep my office informed of the status of this application, and if I can be of further assistance, please contact my Deputy State Director, Daniel Chen, at (650) 533-2207. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



ALEX PADILLA  
United States Senator