



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

Bay Area Metro Center
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May 19, 2022

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

RE: SUPPORT 680 Forward for National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA) program
– Bay Area Regional Priority Project: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission – the San Francisco Bay Area's regional transportation planning, coordinating and financing agency – I am pleased to express my strong support for the Contra Costa Transportation Authority's 680 Forward program request of \$395 million while aligning with federal, state, and local safety, equity, and emissions goals.

680 Forward is a top Bay Area priority for National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA) funds, having received endorsement as a regional priority project through MTC's Bay Area Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Grant Strategy. MTC's priority list – developed in coordination with our transportation partners across the Bay Area's nine counties and more than two dozen transit operators serving the nearly eight million Bay Area residents – aligns top Bay Area transportation priorities with federal grant targets. This suite of regionally significant projects will help advance the Bay Area's ambitious Plan Bay Area 2050 goals to combat the climate crisis, deliver a well-connected, safe, and multimodal transportation network, and improve access to opportunity for all Bay Area residents.

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.¹ The corridor experiences significant delays and inconsistent flow of traffic in both directions, and these delays are expected to continue in the foreseeable future. Expanding and widening I-680 is an expensive option, and building additional rail service in the corridor would cost billions of dollars. Neither option is financially feasible nor would adequately address these congestion problems.

To address these challenges, 680 Forward includes a program of projects including transit improvements, active transportation projects, congestion relief strategies, and innovative concepts to modernize mobility along the corridor. These components include zero-emission express bus (ZEB) service, shared mobility hubs, transit bus-on-shoulder lanes, bicycle and pedestrian overcrossings, completing the express lane network, I-680/State Route 4 (SR-4) interchange improvements, technology tools to encourage better integrated mobility across different modes of transportation, and new mobility options for the elderly and differently-abled populations.

¹ <https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/vital-signs>

Thank you for your consideration of this important project. If we can be of assistance on this or any other issue, please contact Rebecca Long, Director of Legislation and Public Affairs, at rlong@bayareametro.gov or 510-504-7914.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Therese W. McMillan", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Therese W. McMillan
Executive Director