



May 6, 2024

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

RE: Support for the Contra Costa Transportation Authority's Grant Application
for the USDOT's Competitive Multimodal Project Discretionary Program for
Innovate 680 program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As President and CEO of the East Bay Leadership Council, I write to express our strong support of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority's (CCTA) application to the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program for the Innovate 680 program. As a prominent public policy advocacy organization representing hundreds of employers across Contra Costa and Alameda Counties, we know full well the profound impact such strategic investments and have on the overall economic vitality and quality of life in our region.

The Innovate 680 program promotes a holistic approach to improving mobility and creating more sustainable, shared modes of transportation. Innovate 680 will fund a suite of multimodal projects along Interstate 680 (I-680) – a backbone corridor in the San Francisco Bay Area that bisects all of Contra Costa County – to modernize the corridor for the future. 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, three projects within Innovate 680 have the greatest potential to provide immediate public benefit. These projects are designed to work in harmony together to improve safety, smooth traffic, and increase access for all users of the transportation system. Specific projects include three shared mobility hubs that support first and last mile connections to zero emission hydrogen transit, coordinated adaptive ramp metering to reduce congestion on I-680; and completion of an express lane network. These key elements of Innovate 680 complement each other by strengthening regional multimodal connections and reducing barriers to alternative mode use.

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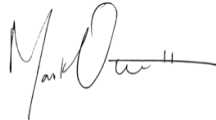
Mark Orcutt

With over \$154 million in future state, other federal, and regional funding already committed, CCTA is seeking approximately \$213 million from the MPDG opportunity.

The Innovate 680 program aligns with USDOT's efforts to advance infrastructure projects of regional significance with economic, mobility, and safety benefits, and is poised to reduce travel time and environmental emissions, while enhancing the region's economic vitality. Importantly, Innovate 680 will prepare the I-680 corridor for the future with innovative solutions that will foster multimodal transportation options, reduce vehicle-miles traveled, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, and increase equity and access for historically disadvantaged and underserved communities.

The East Bay Leadership Council strongly supports CCTA's Innovate 680 program for MPDG funding. Thank you for your consideration of this request, which will transform this critical corridor and advance the region's commitment to transportation innovation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Orcutt", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Orcutt
President & CEO
East Bay Leadership Council