

April 29, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg United States Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE Washington, DC 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:

I write to express 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.

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.

*Innovate 680* will fund a suite of holistic and sustainable multimodal projects along Interstate 680 (I-680) to modernize the corridor for the future. 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 projects are designed to work in harmony together to improve safety, smooth traffic, and increase access for all users of the transportation system by strengthening regional multimodal connections and reducing barriers to alternative mode use.

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.

I strongly urge you to give CCTA's *Innovate 680* program your full consideration for MPDG funding. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to my District Office at (925) 258-1176.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Klasen

Steven M. Glazer California State Senator, 7<sup>th</sup> District