

United States Senate

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November 23, 2011

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing in support of the grant application submitted jointly by the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) to the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program.

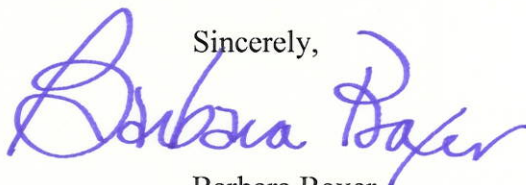
BART and VTA are working together to extend the BART system to Santa Clara County by 2018. The 16-mile extension will ultimately traverse the cities of Milpitas, San Jose – the nation's 10th largest city – and Santa Clara. More than 90,000 daily riders are expected to use the system once it is complete.

If awarded this \$15 million TIGER grant, BART and VTA will begin construction on the first phase of the BART Hayward Maintenance Complex Project, which is a key component of the Silicon Valley extension. This Phase I project involves constructing an outdoor area to store maintenance and engineering materials and equipment, building track to new maintenance facilities, and improving access for BART maintenance operations. BART and VTA expect this project to create approximately 600 jobs – an important boost to the Bay Area, which currently has a double-digit unemployment rate in the construction trades.

This project has the support of several of my colleagues in Congress, as well as members of the California State Legislature, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and local governments, including the City of San Jose.

In advance, I thank you for your consideration of this application. Should you or your staff have questions regarding this letter, please contact my Senior Field Representative, Jennifer Tang, at (510) 286-8521.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator