

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

November 2, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
West Building, 9th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We are writing in strong support of the recent TIGER III grant application jointly submitted by the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) for \$15 million in federal funding (of the \$56.5 million total) for the *Trackwork, Maintenance & Engineering Storage Yard Project* at the BART Hayward Yard Maintenance Complex.

This project is a critical component in the plans to extend the BART system to Santa Clara County by 2018 and add the nation's 10th largest city, San Jose, to those already served by BART. It also is necessary for ensuring that BART's existing rail cars, currently the oldest operating passenger fleet in the nation, be kept in a state of good repair and for servicing the new rail cars that BART will acquire over the coming decade.

This TIGER III grant request would enable BART to commence construction in 2012 on the first phase of the larger BART Hayward Maintenance Complex Project (\$369 million). This Phase I project involves constructing an outdoor area for storage of maintenance and engineering materials and equipment, building track access to new maintenance facilities from the existing mainline, and improving the ease of access for BART maintenance operations. It will create approximately 600 job years of work, which will provide an important boost to the economy of the Bay Area, which currently has a double-digit unemployment rate in the construction trades.

As in the last two TIGER application processes, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the metropolitan planning organization for the nine-county Bay Area, considers this project to be a high priority for the region. MTC has stated that this project will create jobs,

promote economic recovery, assist in achieving regional livability goals, and provide long-term benefits to the Bay Area.

As members of the Bay Area State Legislative Delegation, we believe this creative and innovative partnership between BART and VTA will not only accommodate future planned public transit expansions in the region, but it will also accommodate the additional fleet size needed by BART and protect BART's current capital investments. Importantly, this TIGER III grant request will assist in completing a critical element of the initial phase of the BART Extension to San Jose.

We urge you to give this application your most serious consideration.

Members of the San Francisco Bay Area State Legislative Delegation

Callen M. Corbett

Lori Hancock

Robert A. Wieckowski

Jim N. Jung

Jan R. Gier

Mark Russo

Liz Work

Nora Campo

Wendy Hayashi

Elaine Alquist

Jim Boall Jr.

Nancy Skinner

Mark De

Susan Borilla

Members of the San Francisco Bay Area State Legislative Delegation who have signed on:

Senator Ellen M. Corbett

Senator Loni Hancock

Assembly Member Robert A. Wieckowski

Assembly Member Richard S. Gordon

Assembly Member Sandré R. Swanson

Senator Mark Leno

Senator Lois Wolk

Assembly Member Nora Campos

Assembly Member Mary Hayashi

Senator Elaine Alquist

Assembly Member Jim Beall, Jr.

Assembly Member Nancy Skinner

Senator Mark DeSaulnier

Assembly Member Susan Bonilla