

# County of Santa Clara

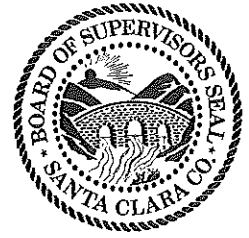
Office of the Board of Supervisors

County Government Center, East Wing  
70 West Hedding Street, 10th Floor  
San Jose, California 95110

(408) 299-5040

Fax: (408) 299-2038 TDD 993-8272

www.supervisoryeager.org



**Ken Yeager**

Supervisor Fourth District

October 24, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
West Building, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I write 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 of the plan to extend the BART system to Santa Clara County by 2018 and add the nation's 10<sup>th</sup> 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, are 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.

I 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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Yeager". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Yeager  
Supervisor, Fourth District

