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November 1, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
West Building, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We are writing in 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 country, are kept in a state of good repair and for servicing the new rail cars that BART will acquire over the coming decade.

The 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 365 jobs that will last through the 2-year life of this project. These jobs 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 Congressional 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. Most important, 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 serious consideration.

Sincerely,


Pete Stark
Member of Congress


Barbara Lee
Member of Congress


John Garamendi
Member of Congress


Jackie Speier
Member of Congress


Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


Mike Honda
Member of Congress