



October 10, 2023

The Honorable Alfredo Pedroza, Chairperson
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
375 Beale Street,
San Francisco, CA

Dear Chairperson Pedroza and members of the Commission,

On behalf of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) we respectfully request your support for MTC staff's recommendation to allocate of \$375 million in formula Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) funds to VTA's BART Silicon Valley Phase II project. These funds will complete the funding plan for the project. The Commission's approval of these funds will enable VTA to provide a robust local match for our federal Capital Investment Grant Program New Starts application.

This project is one of the most important, largest and most anticipated transportation projects in California and the nation. All major transportation projects across the country have experienced severe increases in costs due to general inflation, along with very high construction materials and labor costs. The current cost estimate for the project is \$12.2 billion.

With the continued support of MTC and the State of California along with increased federal participation through the New Starts funding program, and strong local sales tax measures for transportation, this allocation by MTC will close the funding gap and assure a successful application for a Full Funding Grant Agreement with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

By completing the over 60-year vision of ringing the Bay with rail, this project is a critical link in our regional and state commitments to advance our economy, protect against climate change and provide greater transportation equity for our most vulnerable residents and workers. BART Phase II has been a top regional, state and federal priority for decades and was included in President Biden's budget proposal last year. In addition to your essential support, we are grateful for the collaboration with MTC staff and continue to receive strong support from Washington and the active engagement of FTA.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this request and look forward to your continuing support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Pat Burt'.

Patrick "Pat" Burt
Chairperson, Board of Directors
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority