



TRANSBAY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Adam Van de Water • Executive Director

November 7, 2023

Alfred Pedroza, Chair  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)  
375 Beale Street, Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Chair Pedroza and MTC Commissioners,

Thank you for your continued MTC leadership during this critical time for the Bay Area to secure expanded funding available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The MTC's BIL Strategy is an important framework to ensure the region receives its share of federal funding to deliver longstanding investment priorities. We appreciate MTC's commitment to revise this framework to reflect current opportunities as well as staff's endorsement of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority's (TJPA) 2023 National Infrastructure Project Assistance "Mega" application under the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) in the BIL framework.

The Portal, also known as Downtown Rail Extension, stands out among Bay Area projects as a candidate for the federal Mega program as one of just 13 projects nationally recognized to align with the Biden administration's goals in the last Mega funding cycle. Mega is intended to support large, complex projects with regional and/or national benefits to mobility, safety, and the economy. The Portal will unlock transformational regional and statewide connectivity – through the integration of 11 transit operators in downtown San Francisco with service to 8 Bay Area counties – and will connect federal investments in the completed Salesforce Transit Center and the nearly complete Caltrain Electrification project.

We also appreciate your consideration of our allocation request for Regional Measure 3 funding to help prepare The Portal project for construction by late 2025. The TJPA, in collaboration with San Francisco and other project partners, has successfully advanced The Portal through the project development process for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New Starts Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program and is awaiting entry into Engineering, the second phase of the Program, as soon as next month. BIL funding provides historic funding and is a key part of The Portal's funding plan to secure a multi-billion-dollar CIG award from FTA by 2025.

The TJPA remains committed to partnering with the MTC on its vision for transformational Bay Area transit investment and to delivering The Portal collaboratively. We look forward to working closely with MTC staff to advocate for and maximize federal funding to finally deliver this long-held priority.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Van de Water", written over a horizontal line.

Adam Van de Water  
Transbay Joint Powers Authority