

100 Van Ness Avenue 26th Floor
 San Francisco, California 94102-5244
 415-522-4800 FAX 415-522-4829
 info@sfcta.org www.sfcta.org

May 23, 2008

Therese McMillan, Deputy Executive Director
 Metropolitan Transportation Commission
 101 Eighth Street
 Oakland, CA 94607

RECEIVED

JUN - 4 2008

MTC

Subject: Station Area Planning Grant Application for the San Francisco/San Mateo Bi-County Area Planning and Design Study

Dear Ms. McMillan:

We are writing to urge the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to reconsider its finding that our application for a San Francisco/San Mateo Bi-County Study Station Area Planning grant is not eligible to receive grant funds because the proposed study area does not lie entirely within a Priority Development Area (PDA). We disagree with this finding for several reasons listed as follows:



Moving the City.

1. **It is unclear what how agencies with projects within PDAs should involve neighboring areas that are not PDAs.** The grant eligibility language states eligibility is limited to "Areas that have applied and been approved as planned or potential Priority Development Areas (PDAs) to the multi-agency FOCUS program." It is unclear how jurisdictions spanning both PDA and non-PDA areas should respond to this program. We are concerned that by declaring the entire application ineligible, MTC appears to be encouraging San Francisco and jurisdictions in like situations to plan independently of adjacent communities, instead of coordinating regionally. This is at cross purposes with good planning practice and MTC's larger goal of promoting regional coordination.
2. **MTC is missing an opportunity to support a significant model of large-scale TOD in the region.** Although we understand and agree that the Brisbane portion of the study area does not meet the eligibility requirement, we believe that this work has great value to the region and should be supported in some way. San Francisco plans to produce 17,000 housing units and 8 million square feet of employment in this area. In combination with San Mateo's proposed development, these numbers rival the development potential of entire cities in our region. By rejecting this application in whole, MTC is not voicing any support for one of the most robust models of station-area development in the region.
3. **The proposed grant-funded transportation planning work strengthens the regional transit network yielding benefits well beyond the study area.** The proposed study focuses on developing multimodal connections to regional facilities including the Bayshore Caltrain station, Balboa BART station and Third Street LRT line (a Resolution 3434 project). These improvements are expected to generate high transit ridership from this emerging neighborhood area, key goal of the FOCUS program. In addition, we anticipate benefits will accrue to the wider US-101 corridor as well.

COMMISSIONERS

Iake McGoldrick
 CHAIR

Bevan Dufty
 VICE CHAIR

Michela Alioto-Pier

Tom Ammiano

Carmen Chu

Chris Daly

Sean Elsbernd

Sophie Maxwell

Ross Mirkarimi

Aaron Peskin

Gerardo Sandoval

José Luis Moscovich
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We encourage the Commission to reverse its finding of ineligibility and to consider this application, in whole, or in part, for funding under the Station Area Grant Program. We would be open to discussing ways to strengthen the San Mateo part of the application, perhaps through increasing its share of local match for the study if this would help assuage concerns about setting Commission precedent for this nascent program.

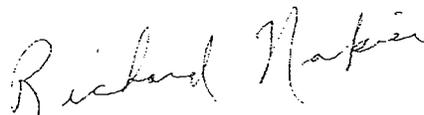
The expansiveness of the change envisioned, and the multiple agencies and communities whose interests are affected by this change, call for careful consideration of the unique conditions and opportunities in this area. We commit to working with our local partners in this area to make it even more transit-supportive. Our hope is that by supporting our efforts, the Commission will send a more balanced message to our local governments.

Thank you again for your efforts to advance smart growth in the region. We look forward to your response and any follow-up discussions regarding the above. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 415.522.4832 with questions.

Regards,



José Luis Móscovich
Executive Director
San Francisco County
Transportation Authority



Rich Napier
Executive Director
City and County Association of
Governments of San Mateo

Attachment: MTC email letter, dated April 21, 2008

cc: R. Breault – City of Brisbane
M. Lee-Skowronek – Caltrain Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
T. Bohee – Office of Economic and Workforce Development
J. Robbins – San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
T. Evans – San Francisco Redevelopment Agency
W. Wycko – San Francisco Planning Department
P. Devine – San Francisco Department of Public Works
TC, MEL, DM, CF, RH, AC, LZ, JK – Chron, File: Bi-County Study