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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

April 10, 2014

Steve Heminger, Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607

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MTC

RE: Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Endorsement of the South San Francisco Caltrain Station Access Improvement Project for TIGER VI

Dear Mr. Heminger:

I write to strongly urge the MTC staff to reconsider endorsement of the South San Francisco Caltrain Station Access Improvement Project (Project) for a Tiger VI grant endorsement. As you know, the Federal Department of Transportation places great emphasis on "Ladders of Opportunity" for round six of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VI). It is for this reason that the City of South San Francisco considers our Project to be a good fit for TIGER VI. To that end, city staff is working in conjunction with staff from the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board on the multi-agency, multi-modal Project application.

The downtown station area is designated as a Priority Development Area and is currently undergoing an intensive planning effort based upon community input. The Caltrain station and pedestrian/bicycle tunnel has been identified as a cornerstone to successful connection of the downtown with the East of Highway 101. South San Francisco has been designated as a community of concern with 27.7% of residents at or below the federal poverty level. Expressed goals of TIGER VI are to "stimulate long-term growth, especially in economically distressed areas" and "strengthen opportunities to expand the middle class". Construction of the Caltrain Station and access tunnel will improve connection of residents with the growing biotech industry and other job centers in the Bay Area. The station is also key to redevelopment of the downtown station area into high density, transit oriented mixed use which will reduce reliance on automobile travel and congestion.

It is for these reasons that the City of South San Francisco believes that the Project is worthy of endorsement by the MTC. I urge you to reconsider the staff recommendation and endorse the South San Francisco Caltrain Station Access Improvement Project. Thank you for your time and consideration to our request.

Very truly yours,

Karyl Matsumoto, Mayor
City of South San Francisco

cc: Scott Haggerty, Chair Metropolitan Transportation Commission Legislation Committee