

BAY AREA COUNCIL

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*Nominee Elect

■ Founded in 1945, the Bay Area Council is a business-sponsored regional public policy organization that promotes economic prosperity and quality of life in the Bay Area.

June 6, 2008

Chairman Bill Dodd and Commissioners
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Chairman Dodd and Commissioners:

As you know, the Bay Area Council has a longstanding interest in improving Bay Area mobility, with a particular interest in improving those parts of the transportation system that operate on a regional scale. The Council's 2004 *Strategic Plan to Improve Bay Area Mobility* identified a battery of strategies to improve the operation of the existing regional transportation system while continuing to expand the system where possible. The Council was pleased that MTC referenced many of these strategies in its Transportation 2030 Plan.

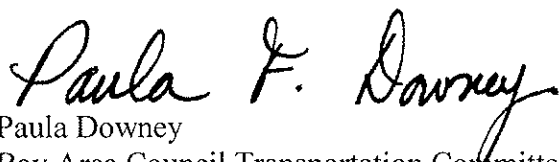
As MTC now undertakes development of the Transportation 2035 (T2035) Plan, the Bay Area Council Transportation Committee is committed to providing the same degree of participation and leadership. At its past two meetings, the Transportation Committee discussed the T2035 Plan with MTC staff, considering several policy issues that are of historical and current interest to the Council. The purpose of this letter is to share with you the outcome of those discussions and the recommendations of the Bay Area Council. Specifically, the Bay Area Council recommends that in developing the Transportation 2035 Plan, MTC should do the following:

- Program a regional Freeway Performance Initiative (FPI) package of projects—including full region-wide ramp metering—that can be shown to be highly cost-effective at reducing congestion and travel time, improving reliability and safety, and increasing traveler convenience; ensure full region-wide implementation of FPI projects by conditioning all regional discretionary funds upon local adoption of FPI plans.
- Program a complete region-wide High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lane system that would be created by converting existing underutilized HOV lanes to HOT lanes and by constructing the additional segments needed to complete a fully connected system. Ensure a seamless and effective regional system by governing, operating, and financing HOT lane system at the regional level. Ensure that tolls pass all legal tests required of a "fee," including ensuring that toll-payers receive a benefit equal to amount paid

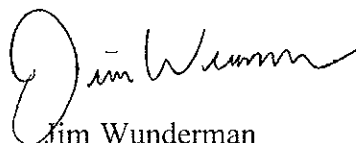
- In cooperation with local agencies, identify a strategy to return local streets and roads and local transit to a state of good repair, with emphasis placed upon those actions that are under local control. To the extent that this strategy includes any MTC commitment of regional discretionary funds—an action that will divert regional funds away from important regional priorities such as improving freeway performance, completing the Resolution 3434 transit expansion program, and developing a world-class goods movement infrastructure—MTC should establish and enforce rigorous performance standards that ensure both adequate local agency commitment of local funds and efficient use of funds.
- Facilitate implementation of Priority Development Areas (PDAs) by directing funding from the Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) program to projects in approved PDAs. At the same time, identify land use zones that serve industrial uses, and protect these areas from incompatible uses by prohibiting funding for any encroaching PDAs.

As always, the Bay Area Council stands ready to assist MTC in accomplishing what we recognize are challenging—but necessary—goals for our region. Should you wish to discuss the Council's T2035 recommendations in greater detail, we would welcome the opportunity to answer your questions.

Sincerely,



Paula Downey
Bay Area Council Transportation Committee Chair
President, AAA Northern California, Nevada and Utah



Jim Wunderman
President and CEO
Bay Area Council

cc: Steve Heminger, Executive Director, MTC
Rick Ramacier, Chairman, Bay Area Partnership
Bay Area CMA Directors