



December 7, 2023

Hon. Alfredo Pedroza  
Chair, Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Bay Area Metro Center  
375 Beale Street, Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

Andrew Fremier  
Executive Director  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Bay Area Metro Center  
375 Beale Street, Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

**RE: Opposition to Near Term Consolidation of Caltrain and BART**

Dear Chair Pedroza & Director Fremier:

We are supportive of the discussions regarding a potential regional measure to provide additional funding for transit systems throughout the Bay Area that have been impacted by the pandemic. Transit is a critical element of our region's transportation systems and mobility network. It is important that the region continue to make progress on initiatives that demonstrate tangible improvements for transit riders.

Not the time for Consolidation

We strongly believe that now is not the time to entertain a sub-regional effort on consolidation, particularly without transit agency support or input. Consolidation without broad support would be an unwelcome distraction and could divide the region at a time when collaboration and unity are critical.

Caltrain's Tri-County Governance Enhancements

As you are likely aware, Caltrain is at the precipice of introducing a fully electrified zero emission corridor between San Francisco and San Jose in September 2024. Recently, Caltrain and the San Mateo County Transit District completed a lengthy and disruptive governance review process.

Having achieved a negotiated solution among Caltrain's three Measure RR-contributing counties, Caltrain and the member agencies are in the early stages of implementing that governance agreement. Governance stability improves recruitment and retention, allows the focus to remain on delivering capital projects such as Caltrain Electrification and its work on regional initiatives like the Portal, Diridon and the fare integration study jointly undertaken by BART and Caltrain.

#### Coordination Efforts

Stemming from MTC's Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force, we look forward to the work of the Regional Network Manager which strives to implement better fare and schedule integration, consistent intuitive wayfinding for all systems and the promotion of passenger safety.

#### State Review

In addition, the state of California is just beginning an effort through the Transit Recovery Task Force that will evaluate how transit agencies operate in California, explore whether the current methods and formulas for funding transit should remain or change, discuss strategies for increasing ridership, review the metrics applied to transit, and, if warranted, explore criteria for the consolidation of agencies.

Proposals for possible consolidation made in advance of such a review are both premature and unhelpful.

We fully support the many efforts to improve regional transit already underway and in identifying potential new resources to support transit through this challenging period and encourage all efforts to meet those goals.

Sincerely,



**Assemblymember Diane Papan**  
**Assembly District 21**



**Assemblymember Marc Berman**  
**Assembly District**