



RE: SB 1031 - SUPPORT IF AMENDED

Dear Senator Wiener, Senator Wahab,

Cc: Bay Area Caucus, MTC Commissioners and staff,

As organizations committed to environmental sustainability and equitable transportation, **we strongly support a transportation revenue measure authorized by SB 1031 (Wiener, Wahab) that delivers needed funding for our region's transit system, roadway repair, safer streets and active transportation to advance climate and equity throughout the Bay Area.** Significant new operating funding is required to prevent severe service cuts and enhance overall service quality. As our global climate crisis continues, we know that a thriving transit system, safer streets and active transportation networks are imperative to meet the Bay Area and California's goals for equity, climate, safety and economic prosperity.

In order to advance these goals and fund needed transit and safe streets investments, **we call on the legislature to prohibit new highway widening projects in measure authorizing legislation.** New lanes saddle us with future maintenance costs, disrupt communities, undercut transit, and take us further away from our climate goals. There are many other state and federal sources for roadway improvements, but very few to sustain and expand public transit operations.

**Every dollar we spend on new highways is one less dollar for public transit and safer streets.** At present, there is a \$24 billion shortfall<sup>1</sup> in state of good repair and complete streets funding for the region's roads, where traffic fatalities have increased almost 50% in the past decade.<sup>2</sup>

There is also a large and urgent need for transit operations funding in the Bay Area. Upwards of \$750 million is needed annually simply to maintain existing service levels for transit in the Bay Area, and much more is needed to increase pre-pandemic levels of service and support investments in customer-focused initiatives to advance safety, cleanliness and connectivity. We urge enabling legislation that targets transformative levels of transit investment.

This measure represents a generational investment in our transportation system and will set a precedent for how transportation dollars are spent throughout California. **Passing authorizing legislation this year that allows highway expansion jeopardizes climate, equity and economic prosperity in the Bay Area.** In addition to prioritizing transit, safer streets and preventing highway widening, the legislature can help the Bay Area deliver a successful transportation revenue measure by **authorizing progressive revenue sources that poll better and do not place undue burden on those least able to pay.**

We look forward to working with you to pass the best transportation measure possible,

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> [Plan Bay Area Project List](#)

<sup>2</sup> [MTC Vital Signs](#)

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