



Office Mayor Osby Davis • 555 Santa Clara Street • Vallejo • CA • 94590 • 707.648.4377

May 18, 2016

Mr. Dave Cortese, Chair
Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
and MTC Commissioners
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, California 94607

RE: City of Vallejo MTC/ABAG Merger Recommendation

Dear Mr. Cortese:

The Vallejo City Council would like to take this opportunity to contribute our recommendation regarding the proposed merger of two regional planning agencies, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).

We understand that absent a Merger Implementation Plan (MIP) adopted by both agencies, the MTC will terminate its Planning Grant to ABAG on July 1, 2016. We are concerned that this termination will essentially cease ABAG's responsibilities under SB375, including regional land use planning responsibilities assigned to ABAG, and the preparation of Plan Bay Area 2040.

We urge the agencies to avoid this scenario, due to its abruptness and therefore lack of ability to coordinate important Bay Area regional planning efforts between the two agencies.

We are also concerned that, in the event the ABAG Planning Grant is terminated, or an MIP is chosen that does not include robust representation of Bay Area cities and counties—robust representation as has been experienced with ABAG governance—these cities and counties will experience diminished representation on regional planning efforts, potentially to the detriment of Plan Bay Area 2040 and to other regional planning efforts experienced at the local level.

The City of Vallejo is aware of the discussions between MTC and ABAG. This is a significant issue which could have long lasting impacts on our City and County. We therefore request that the parties take the time to openly and thoroughly discuss all issues and potential impacts before making a decision.

During this period of discussion, we recommend that MTC favorably consider continuing the ABAG Planning Grant until a final decision is made.

Sincerely



Osby Davis
Mayor

cc: Steve Heminger, MTC Executive Director
Jim Spering – MTC Commissioner, Solano County
Julie Pierce – ABAG President
Erza Rapport – ABAG Executive Director
Leah Zippert – ABAG