



City of Larkspur

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October 16, 2015

Ms. Julie Pierce, Chair
Association of Bay Area Governments
101 8th Street
Oakland, CA 94607

RECEIVED
OCT 27 2015
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Mr. David Cortese, Chair
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
101 8th Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Chairs Pierce and Cortese:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Larkspur concerning the recent proposal that Bay Area land use and transportation planning be consolidated into the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). The magnitude and implications of this proposal are significant. As such, it should not be rushed and greater outreach and regional discussion should occur before any decision is made.

Since member cities of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) have not been afforded the opportunity to evaluate the proposal or to provide alternative proposals for consideration, I urge the MTC to commit to the following:

- fund ABAG through the end of fiscal year 2015-16;
- adhere to the 2012 full funding agreement; and
- abandon efforts to terminate ABAG's planning grant until there is a meaningful public discussion and consensus among all stakeholders on how effective and efficient regional land use and transportation planning can be accomplished.

Collaboration and transparency are required for a successful outcome that:

- ensures Plan Bay Area grant funding and planning remains optimal and sustainable for local jurisdictions actively engaged in these regional programs or projects;
- engages a wide range of stakeholders in a process that ensures a deliberate and collaborative public process that supported by both agencies, and with adequate time for proper funding and implementation through the entire 2015-16 fiscal year; and
- supports a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary regional approach on the consolidation of all planning related functions in a combined agency that addresses not only land use and transportation, but all related functions where environmental factors, social concerns and transportation goals are collectively addressed for the betterment of the Bay Area region.

I urge the governing boards of both agencies to take all concerns and issues from Bay Area cities into consideration, and to work towards a cooperative agreement that leads to the successful transition of a planning function or the development of a new model which promotes Bay Area regional governance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Chu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Larry" and the last name "Chu" clearly distinguishable.

Larry Chu
Mayor

CC: Ezra Rapport, ABAG Executive Director
Steve Heminger, MTC Executive Director