

September 16, 2015

Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Association of Bay Area Governments  
101 Eighth Street  
Oakland, California 94607

Dear MTC Commissioners and ABAG Board Members,

Over the years, the City of San Jose's Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement has enjoyed working as a partner, along with the Bay Area region's cities, counties and various stakeholders, in shaping strategies to manage growth and development in our region.

Serving as the Council of Governments for the Bay Area, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), has worked hard to connect people across borders and subject areas, realizing our success depends in large part on our ability to work together collaboratively to strengthen both our local communities and region as a whole. Likewise, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has served as the region's designated metropolitan planning organization and has managed federal and state transportation planning and funding.

Regarding the initial proposal by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to establish a single planning department within MTC, as well as subsequent recommendations and options proposed by ABAG and other entities, we believe that there would be great value and efficiencies realized in either a merger of the two planning functions or closer collaboration on regional land use and transportation planning.

While we understand the desire to complete the analyses to improve planning integration between ABAG and MTC or to establish a single regional planning agency in advance of the update to Plan Bay Area, it seems unrealistic that a comprehensive analysis could be considered and options properly vetted with all stakeholders prior to June 2016 when policy makers of MTC and ABAG expect to adopt a Preferred Scenario for the Plan Bay Area update.

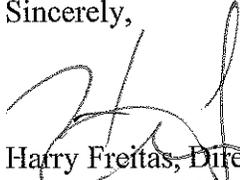
We encourage consideration of a comprehensive process to fully evaluate options that have already been proposed, as well as new approaches that may arise through a meaningful, transparent process that includes the region's cities, counties and other stakeholders.

The Department has enjoyed a respectful, healthy relationship in coordinating with ABAG on

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land use planning projects and initiatives. We would advocate that under any new organizational structure that this same level of productivity and coordination be maintained and enhanced.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Freitas', written over the printed name below.

Harry Freitas, Director  
Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement