



October 22, 2015

Honorable Dave Cortese  
Chair, Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
101 Eight Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Chair Cortese,

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Clara City Managers Association regarding the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC's) proposal to transfer components of the Plan Bay Area and the associated planning and research staff and funding from the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to MTC.

After considering a presentation made by ABAG Executive Director Ezra Rapport to the Santa Clara County City Managers on October 14, 2015, the Association has some questions and concerns. ABAG has provided a number of services and carries out a number of planning functions of great importance to Santa Clara County cities, including the insurance pool, energy programs, and the Bay Trail program not to mention the jobs and housing projections and analysis required to determine city Regional Housing Needs Allocation. MTC has not been clear regarding how these ABAG programs and responsibilities would continue going forward or why this change in organization makes sense for the region at this time.

We are aware that the organization of regional planning entities for Bay Area is unique within the State. However, because of this historic legacy, we believe that changes to the organizational structure of Bay Area regional planning should be made deliberately, transparently and with the input from the cities and counties within the entire nine Bay Area counties.

As the association of Santa Clara County City Managers, we respectfully request that the MTC Board delay any final decision on this proposal until the Commission staff can discuss the proposal with the ABAG member cities and counties and assure Bay Area local governments that the services and responsibilities currently fulfilled by both ABAG and MTC will not be negatively impacted by the MTC proposal, and that the proposal represents the most efficient and effective allocation of responsibilities and resources between the two agencies.

As a long serving public official within Santa Clara County and regionally, we rely on your leadership to advance effective regional governance for the Bay Area. On behalf of the Santa Clara County City Managers Association, I respectfully invite you and/or MTC staff to come and discuss the MTC proposal at a future Association meeting with our members.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Brandt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Brandt  
Chair, Santa Clara County City Managers Association