



*Leadership Board*

*Ron Gonzales, Chair  
Hispanic Foundation Silicon Valley*

*Keri Lung, Vice- Chair  
Mid-Peninsula Housing Coalition*

*Kevin Zwick, Treasurer  
Housing Trust Silicon Valley*

*Kathy Thibodeaux, Secretary  
KM Thibodeaux Consulting LLC*

*Felix Au-Yueng  
EAH Housing*

*Shiloh Ballard  
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition*

*Bob Brownstein  
Working Partnerships USA*

*Amie Fishman  
Non Profit Housing Association  
of Northern California*

*Poncho Guevara  
Sacred Heart Community Service*

*Janice Jensen  
Habitat for Humanity  
East Bay/Silicon Valley*

*Jennifer Loving  
Destination: Home*

*Zoe Mullendore  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group*

*Chris Neale  
The CORE Companies*

*Andrea Osgood  
Eden Housing*

*Kelly Snider  
Kelly Snider Consulting*

*Jennifer Van Every  
The Van Every Group*

*Davis White  
Google*

*Staff*

*Leslye Corsiglia  
Executive Director*

*95 South Market Street  
Suite 610  
San Jose, CA 95113  
Tel: 408.436.3450 x 302  
Fax: 408.436.3454  
leslye@siliconvalleyathome.org  
siliconvalleyathome.org  
facebook.com/siliconvalleyathome*

TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL

October 27, 2015

Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
101 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Oakland, CA 90607

Dear Chair Cortese, Vice-Chair MacKenzie, and MTC Commissioners,

Re: Integrated Regional Planning Department, MTC Commission Meeting—  
October 28, 2015

SV@Home is the voice of affordable housing in Silicon Valley, representing a broad range of interests, from leading employers who are driving the Bay Area economy to labor and service organizations, to nonprofit and for-profit developers who provide housing and services to those most in need. On behalf of our members, I write to share additional perspective on the proposal for an Integrated Regional Planning Department under MTC's authority.

First, we want to thank the staff for considering the many comments received regarding proposals to consolidate the planning functions of MTC and ABAG, as well as a potential merger. We are heartened to see the 11 Guiding Principles outlined in the staff report released on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, are pleased to see the proposal to retain MTC's contribution to ABAG's budget for FY2015-2016, and appreciate the inclusion of a study to analyze additional integration options, including an institutional merger between the two regional agencies.

The true goal of this effort should be to evolve an interdisciplinary agency that is accountable for and responsive to the significant and interrelated transportation, housing, social equity, and environmental problems that threaten to cripple the region. We are in support of the current proposal to form an Integrated Regional Planning Department comprised of MTC and ABAG planners as a preliminary step towards the broader goal of creating the united regional planning infrastructure we need to address our growing problems. And while we look forward to opportunities to weigh in on future discussions, we want to raise a few issues that require additional conversation:

1. While there may be statutory limitations that currently constrain the transfer of RHNA authority, this remains a key function of planning for housing and affordable housing regionally and at the local level. We strongly suggest establishing a framework to mitigate the exclusion of the RHNA planners, and the resulting allocation process, from the Integrated Regional Planning Department prior to formal integration of staff from both agencies.

2. Given the interrelated nature of regional planning, all units of the Integrated Regional Planning Department should comprehensively address planning for the region's housing and affordable housing needs.
3. The proposed merger study process should be conducted in an inclusive, transparent, and expeditious manner. We strongly encourage MTC to engage regional stakeholders and the broader public in a meaningful way throughout the entire process.
4. Last, but not the least, given the pivotal role that our affordable housing crisis plays in exacerbating the region's transportation, social equity, and environmental challenges, we strongly encourage MTC to formally acknowledge its expanded role and commitment to addressing the region's affordable housing crisis as part of the established set of Guiding Principles governing the process of forming an Integrated Regional Planning Department.

SV@Home remains committed to continuing to work with staff and leadership from both MTC and ABAG to develop solutions to our region's pressing affordable housing crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Sincerely,



Pilar Lorenzana-Campo  
Policy Director  
[pilar@svathome.org](mailto:pilar@svathome.org)  
(408) 215-8925

Cc

Steve Heminger, [sheminger@mtc.ca.gov](mailto:sheminger@mtc.ca.gov)  
Ezra Rapport, [ezrar@abag.ca.gov](mailto:ezrar@abag.ca.gov)  
Dave Cortese, [dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org)  
Jason Baker, [jasonb@cityofcampbell.com](mailto:jasonb@cityofcampbell.com)  
Sam Liccardo, [District3@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District3@sanjoseca.gov)