



SAN  
FRANCISCO  
**CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE**

March 30, 2016

The Honorable Brian Kelly  
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350B  
Secretary, California State Transportation Agency  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: TIRCP Application to Fund the SFMTA's Light Rail Modernization and Expansion Program

Dear Secretary Kelly:

I am pleased to offer strong support from the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's application for \$155,845,000 in 2016 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) funds for the SFMTA Light Rail Modernization and Expansion Program. The program is a transformative investment in San Francisco's transit infrastructure. It expands and replaces the current fleet, improves system capacity, improves travel times and keeps the system in a state of good repair.

Moreover, the program addresses critical current and future capacity needs created by the 100,000 new housing units and 190,000 new jobs San Francisco anticipates adding by 2040. Increased ridership can only be achieved by expanding the SFMTA's Light Rail fleet. Expanding the light rail fleet and the programs' complementary modernization investments will further drive smart growth and development to rail corridors, ensuring San Francisco's continued role as a hub of job creation and innovation.

The Light Rail Modernization and Expansion program is a critical component of San Francisco's transportation strategy and meets the four criteria of the TIRCP:

- **Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** San Francisco's light rail network is the backbone of its transit system. The Light Rail Modernization and Expansion program will transform San Francisco's light rail network. It will provide new cars that will expand the system's peak capacity, improve reliability and provide riders with additional amenities that will offer a better alternative to driving. By making these investments in the City's light rail system, more people will choose transit, thus reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Increased Ridership for Disadvantaged Communities:** By dramatically increasing the fleet size, the light rail system will increase levels, including the City's disadvantaged communities. 51% of SFMTA's ridership reports living in a low income household, compared to 31% of households citywide. With the opening of the Central Subway, the increased fleet of light rail vehicles will be able to take San Franciscans and visitors even more places.

- **Integrated with Local, Regional and Statewide Transit System:** The program will provide residents, commuters and visitors quick, convenient connections to regional and statewide transit systems. The program will facilitate integration with BART, Caltrain, ferries, and High Speed Rail in the future at the new Transbay Transit Center benefiting the Bay Area and beyond. Integration with these carriers will allow visitors, commuters and San Franciscans alike to choose convenient transit for their entire journey, even if it begins or ends outside of city limits or the downtown core.
- **Improve Safety:** The new generation of vehicles, with improved technology and state-of-the-art safety features, will provide a safer and more reliable fleet. Among the safety features, the new vehicles are designed with a crash energy management system, providing a crumple zone at the ends of each car to protect passengers and operators in case of impact.

The Light Rail Modernization and Expansion Program, along with the Caltrain Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project, which the Chamber is also pleased to support, squarely meets the greenhouse gas reduction goals of Senate Bill 862 through the modernization of California's transit systems. With the State's continued TIRCP support in 2016 the SFMTA can implement a transformative light rail program that improves the lives of both everyday Californians and San Franciscans while benefiting the environment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Joel Goldberg, SFMTA's Manager of Capital Procurement and Management, at (415) 701-4499.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Jim Lazarus  
Senior Vice President of Public Policy  
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

cc: Edward D. Reiskin, Director of Transportation, SFMTA