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December 7, 2023

Alfredo Pedroza
Chair, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District ("District" or "SamTrans"), the managing agency and a key funding partner of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board ("Caltrain"), we are writing to express our concerns about any efforts to consolidate Caltrain and BART.

The District has been the managing agency for Caltrain for the past 32 years, and the shared services model we employ to support the operations of SamTrans and Caltrain provide efficiencies for both agencies. The District provides shared services to Caltrain for human resources, contracts and procurement, technology, budgets, communications, grants, and more.

As you may know, the SamTrans, VTA, City & County San Francisco and Caltrain Boards finalized a new governance agreement for Caltrain in 2022. Since that time, we have been working through steps to implement the governance agreement in a deliberate, collaborative way. Negotiation and implementation of the agreement has taken substantial time and effort for all parties, as well as significant financial investment. This is not the time to open up a new governance discussion involving Caltrain. Any *envisioned* efficiencies that could result from a Caltrain and BART consolidation will take *actual* efficiencies away from the current SamTrans and Caltrain model.

MTC has not discussed a potential Caltrain-BART consolidation with us. Nonetheless, we want to go on record now with our initial view that such reorganization would not be beneficial for the District or for San Mateo County taxpayers. As a reminder, San Mateo County taxpayers already pay a portion of San Mateo Measure A sales tax proceeds to BART. In addition, SamTrans participated in funding the BART extension to SFO, contributing hundreds of millions of dollars in capital costs for that project.

The District is actively engaged with MTC in the ongoing efforts to implement the regional Transit Transformation Action Plan. We participate in Clipper START, regional wayfinding and signage standardization, and free and reduced transfer programs, and we are taking a leadership role on the new Regional Network Management Council. We expect MTC to

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consult us directly if consolidation of Caltrain with another agency is being seriously considered.

We care first and foremost about delivering quality services to our customers and residents of San Mateo County. At present, we do not believe this community would benefit – and, in fact, would be harmed – by a Caltrain-BART consolidation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Powell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Josh" and last name "Powell" clearly distinguishable.

Josh Powell
Chair, SamTrans Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "April Chan". The signature is cursive and elegant, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

April Chan
General Manager/CEO, SamTrans

Cc: Chair, Joint MTC ABAG Legislative Committee
San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors
San Mateo County Transit District State Legislative Delegation