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Executive Director

Arthur L. Dao

March 17, 2011

Mr. Steve Heminger

Executive Director

Metropolitan Transportation Commission

101 Eighth Street,

Oakland, California 94607

Dear Mr. Heminger,

Subject: Comments on RTP/SCS Goals and Performance Targets

The Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) received a presentation at its February 24th CWTP-TEP Steering Committee meeting about the RTP/SCS Goals and Performance Targets adopted by MTC Commission in January. Based on our review of the adopted performance targets, we submit the following comments and a request for information about how congestion relief will be accounted for in the performance assessment process.

At the January 14, 2011 Joint MTC Planning Committee/ABAG Administrative Committee meeting, certain modifications were made to staff's recommendations that we believe will limit the ability to evaluate certain goals that are important to the Congestion Management Agencies. The Committee revised the Transportation System Effectiveness goal of the Performance Targets from:

Decrease average per-trip travel time for auto and transit modes by 10%

To:

Decrease average per-trip travel time by 10% for non-auto modes and

Decrease automobile vehicle miles traveled per capita by 10%

The revised and now adopted measure results in two effects that we do not believe the Commission intended. First, it does not recognize that congestion relief is a mandate of the congestion management plans and one that we are required to measure and monitor. Second, by decreasing average trip travel time for all modes instead of just transit and auto, it contradicts the Health and Safe Communities goal of *Increase average time walking or biking per person per day for transportation by 60% (for an average of 15 minutes per day).*

The Alameda CTC supports SB 375 and its goals. In Alameda County, our jurisdictions have begun implementing development patterns that reduce drive alone trips and promote transit, which result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions. However, we are concerned that by defining certain goals so specifically, we lose sight of other important needs and projects, such as high occupancy vehicle and toll lanes, that affect transportation and relieve congestion and reduce greenhouse gases by allowing traffic to flow more smoothly.

We appreciate your consideration of the above and request clarification on how the performance assessment will also inform project performance with respect to congestion relief. Please contact Arthur L. Dao, Executive Director of the Alameda CTC, with any questions. Mr. Dao can be reached at 510/208-7402 via telephone or adao@alamedactc.org via email.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being more prominent than the last name "Green".

MARK GREEN, Chair
Alameda County Transportation Commission
Mayor of Union City

Cc: Alameda County Transportation Commission
Arthur L. Dao, Alameda CTC
Beth Walukas, Alameda CTC
Tess Lengyel, Alameda CTC
Doug Kimsey, MTC
Ashley Nguyen, MTC