

February 23, 2018

Mayor Dutra-Vernaci and Union City Councilmembers

RE: Opposition to East-West Connector Proposal: Agenda Item 7c on your February 27, 2018 Council Meeting

Dear Mayor Dutra-Vernaci and Councilmembers:

Your staff's proposal to use bike and transit funds for the East-West Connector roadway project is the most egregious breach of voter trust we have ever witnessed. If not illegal, it is certainly a shameful and dispicable spit in the voters' faces. We oppose!

The proposal takes all \$10 million of Union City's locally-directed Measure B/BB transportation sales tax money for bike-ped projects for the next 22+ years and directs it to a roadway project, justifying this highway robbery by claiming a bike lane will be striped on the road. There will be no local Measure B/BB money left for bike-ped projects, your largest source of funding to improve walking and bicycling. Your 2012 Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan estimates that \$75 million is needed to implement the projects in the Plan. Furthermore, the East-West Connector bike lane is not a "high-priority" project in the bike plan.

As bad as your thinking is on this issue, your process is even worse. There has been no public engagement or public discussion of how this bike-ped \$10 million should be spent, beyond the language in the city's approved bike-ped plan and beyond the language in voter-approved Measure BB to prioritize projects in bike plans. Your proposal does none of this. A City Council discussion to approve or not this proposal is an open and transparent process on its decision, but is no substitute for public outreach and public discussion, which there has been none.

Please postpone your discussion on this staff proposal until there has been a robust public outreach, engagement and discussion on the benefits and the impacts of this proposal, so that you can make an informed decision, and the voters can be assured that you are acting in good faith to comply with their voter-approved tax dollars.

It is also necessary to point out that your decision to divert voter-approved bike & transit funding to a roadway project a mere four months before voters are going to be asked again to pay for transportation improvements through Regional Measure 3 would be an astounding indifference to the awareness voters have of your actions. Even worse, your vote in support of Proposition 69 on this same February 27 agenda, to protect SB-1 funding for roadway maintenance, at the same time as unilaterally rewriting the intent of Measure BB, would send all the wrong messages to the supporters of SB-1's repeal who will be campaigning this Fall to take away your much-needed funding for roadway maintenance.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Dave Campbell Advocacy Director

Cc: Art Dao, Executive Director Alameda CTC

Rebecca Long, Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Joel Ramos, Transform

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