



**P.O. Box 22516
Oakland, CA 94609**

August 10, 2020

Therese McMillan, Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Dear Ms. McMillan:

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area supports regional planning such as the draft Plan Bay Area 2050. We appreciate the time and effort spent to bring the vision of a future Bay Area into a concrete plan.

Given the upcoming changes in the region caused by results of the pandemic, shifting patterns for transportation and housing may impact the future of this Plan. This makes outreach to the public even more important than before, especially to those in underserved communities who rely on public transit and affordable housing. It is not clear how successful that part of MTC's outreach has been. The publicized input opportunities during the comment period have been insufficient. Given how difficult communication opportunities are during the pandemic, it seems that the comment period should have been longer and more widely publicized.

Consistent with League policies we strongly support two transportation strategies in the Plan Blueprint:

- Enable Seamless Mobility with Unified Trip Planning and Fare Payments
- Reform Regional Fare Policy

We would encourage you to work toward integrating police and safety systems, standardizing signage, and making sure that integrated trip planning includes integrated schedules.

The League strongly supports efforts to fully integrate transportation and housing into the regional plan. While we applaud the goal to construct 400,000 permanently affordable new homes, hundreds of thousands of low income residents will still lack affordable housing as noted in Challenge #1. New revenue streams must be considered. We ask you to prioritize making as goals anti-displacement strategies and increased affordability in high resource areas.

Finally, we ask that the Commission build in flexibility or alternative planning due to the changing financial realities caused by the pandemic. We ask that you consider prioritizing your plans and programs so that flexibility can be applied when needed.

Sincerely yours,

Sherry Smith

Sherry Smith
President
League of Women Voters of the Bay Area