

Sample Letter

June __, 2008
Steve Heminger, Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Re: Resolution 3434 Strategic Plan

Dear Mr. Heminger:

The City of _____ requests the Programming and Allocations Committee not divert \$91 million in Regional Measure 2 funds programmed for Dumbarton Rail to the Warm Springs BART project. The trading of secure Regional Measure 2 funds with future, uncertain RTIP funds would hinder the ability to negotiate with Union Pacific Railroad to acquire the Oakland Subdivision.

The intent of Resolution 3434 and Priority Development Areas is to encourage Transit Oriented Development around the rail stations. Union City, Hayward, San Leandro and Oakland each have designated PDAs adjacent to their BART stations that would benefit from the acquisition of the Oakland Subdivision and the preservation of the right-of-way for future transportation uses. Although Warm Springs is an important regional project, it does not include a PDA.

Acquisition of the Oakland Subdivision in conjunction with track improvements evaluated in Union City's Passenger Rail EIR would have independent utility even if the Dumbarton Rail project is delayed. Capitol Corridor and ACE could provide service to the Union City BART station and to San Jose. Capitol Corridor could potentially provide service to Hayward and San Leandro's BART stations and provide a reliever to over-crowded BART trains. The diversion of Regional Measure 2 funds is inconsistent with the voter mandate which specifically identified funding for Dumbarton Rail with stations in Alameda County. The diversion of funds is also inconsistent with the recommendations of the Regional Rail Plan to acquire the Oakland Subdivision and preserve the right-of-way.

_____ recommends that the Programming and Allocations Committee modify the Resolution 3434 2008 Strategic Plan to program Regional Measure 2 funds to acquire the Oakland Subdivision and to authorize negotiations with Union Pacific Railroad.

Sincerely,