



Office of the Mayor | Bob Wasserman, Mayor
3300 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 5006, Fremont, CA 94537-5006
510 284-4011 *ph* | 510 284-4001 *fax* | www.fremont.gov

November 14, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
West Building, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing in strong support of the recent TIGER 3 grant application jointly submitted by the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) which would contribute \$15 million (of a \$56.5 million total) to complete the *Trackwork, Maintenance & Engineering Storage Yard Project* in Hayward, California. This grant award would assist in the completion of the larger Hayward Maintenance Complex project (\$369 Million) with the goal of providing public transit assets to a part of the Bay Area not now served by passenger rail.

As you know, after 40 years BART will soon award a contract for its critical procurement of new rail cars to replace the oldest operating passenger fleet in the nation. The Hayward Project is not only a necessary component that will allow the servicing of the existing system in a state of good repair, but it will also accommodate future system demands. This is a critical component in the plans to extend the BART system to Santa Clara County by 2018 and add the nation's 10th largest city, San Jose, to those already served by the BART and VTA systems.

For this round of TIGER discretionary transportation funding, the Hayward *Trackwork, Maintenance & Engineering Storage Yard Project* would specifically focus on providing an outdoor area for storage of maintenance and engineering materials and equipment, provide track access to new maintenance facilities from the existing mainline, and improve the ease of access for BART maintenance operations.

As in the last two TIGER application processes, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) highly prioritizes this project. By investing in infrastructure and providing long-term benefits to the region, the MTC has stated this project will create jobs, promote economic recovery and assist in regional livability goals.

As Mayor of Fremont, I believe this creative and innovative partnership between BART and VTA will not only accommodate future planned expansions in the area, but accommodate the additional fleet size and protect BART's current capital investments. Importantly, this TIGER 3 grant can assist in completing a critical component to the initial phase of the BART to San Jose project.

I urge you to give this application your most serious consideration.

Sincerely,


Bob Wasserman
Mayor

