



# Santa Clara & San Benito Counties Building & Construction Trades Council

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Neil M. Struthers  
Chief Executive Officer

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Deputy Executive Officer

Robert Baldini  
President

October 24, 2011

Asbestos Workers 16  
Boilermakers 549  
Brick & Tile 3  
Northern California  
Carpenters Regional Council  
Carpenters 405  
Carpet & Linoleum 12  
Cement Masons 400  
Drywall Lathers 9144  
Electricians 332  
Elevator Constructors 8  
Glaziers 1621  
Iron Workers 377  
Laborers 270  
Laborers 67  
Millmen 262  
Millwrights 102  
Operating Engineers 3  
Painters District Council 16  
Painters 507  
Plasterers 300  
Plumbers & Steamfitters 393  
Roofers & Waterproofers 95  
Sheet Metal Workers 104  
Sign, Display 510  
Sprinkler Fitters 483  
Teamsters 287

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
West Building, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing in strong support of the recent TIGER III grant application jointly submitted by the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) for \$15 million in federal funding (of the \$56.5 million total) for the *Trackwork, Maintenance & Engineering Storage Yard Project* at the BART Hayward Yard Maintenance Complex.

This project is a critical component in the plans to extend the BART system to Santa Clara County by 2018 and add the nation's 10<sup>th</sup> largest city, San Jose, to those already served by BART. It also is necessary for ensuring that BART's existing rail cars, currently the oldest operating passenger fleet in the nation, be kept in a state of good repair and for servicing the new rail cars that BART will acquire over the coming decade.

This TIGER III grant request would enable BART to commence construction in 2012 on the first phase of the larger BART Hayward Maintenance Complex Project (\$369 Million). This Phase I project involves constructing an outdoor area for storage of maintenance and engineering materials and equipment, building track access to new maintenance facilities from the existing mainline, and improving the ease of access for BART maintenance operations. It will create approximately 600 job years of work, which will provide an important boost to the economy of the Bay Area, which currently has a double-digit unemployment rate in the construction trades.

As in the last two TIGER application processes, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the metropolitan planning organization for the nine-county Bay Area, considers this project to be a high priority for the region. MTC has stated that



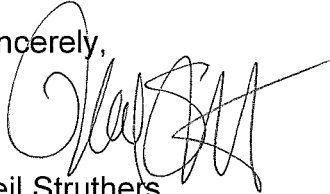
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this project will create jobs, promote economic recovery, assist in achieving regional livability goals, and provide long-term benefits to the Bay Area.

I believe this creative and innovative partnership between BART and VTA will not only accommodate future planned public transit expansions in the region, but it will also accommodate the additional fleet size needed by BART and protect BART's current capital investments. Importantly, this TIGER III grant request will assist in completing a critical element of the initial phase of the BART Extension to San Jose.

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

Sincerely,



Neil Struthers  
CEO

