

November 2, 2011

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing in support of the TIGER III grant application 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 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 10th largest city, San Jose, to those already served by BART. It is necessary for ensuring that BART's existing rail cars, currently the oldest operating passenger fleet in the nation, are 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. Phase I 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 jobs, which will provide an important boost to the economy of the Bay Area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chuck Reed
Mayor