GAVIN NEWSOM
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

August 8, 2016

Mr. Bob Alvarado, Chair
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS-52
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Transbay Transit Center Bus Storage Facilities

Dear Commissioner Alvarado:

I am writing to urge you and your fellow Commissioners to approve leases for the parcels that would be used for bus storage by the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District and the Golden Gate Transit at the Transbay Transit Center at no cost.

The Transbay Transit Center is the type of project that embodies California's sustainable and environmental policy priorities by emphasizing infill development with a mix of commercial and residential building, centered on a regional mass transportation facility. It is therefore vital that we guarantee the Transit Center's operations are as cost-effective as possible in order to deliver the environmental benefits and congestion relief.

A long term no-cost lease would move the State closer to the aggressive greenhouse gas reduction targets set by successive governors and the legislature. We have made huge strides in reducing carbon emissions across many sectors but the transit sector remains the area where significant gains remain to be made.

This is part-accomplished by promoting the use of mass transit, removing over 1 million deadhead miles from our state and local roads and reducing carbon emissions by over 4,000 tons annually by eliminating the need to utilize storage areas in the east and north bay. Placing an undue economic burden on these operators undermines the State's ambitious goals and challenges its ability to provide a successful transit service in other service areas.

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GAVIN NEWSOM
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

While I support the need to maximize the return on the use of state facilities for commercial purposes, we must also utilize state facilities for greatest good and in the best interest of California.

Sincerely

GAVIN NEWSOM
Lieutenant Governor of California

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State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Legislature

August 4, 2016

Mr. Bob Alvarado, Chair
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS-52
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Transbay Transit Center Bus Storage Facilities
Lease Area No. 04-SF-BT-04 (AC Transit) and Lease Area No. 04-SF-BT-05 (Golden Gate Transit)

Dear Commissioner Alvarado:

We are writing to urge the Commission to approve a no or very low cost lease for the use of Parcels J and K referenced above, as identified in the July 11, 2003 Cooperative Agreement between Caltrans, the Transbay Joint Powers Authority and the City and County of San Francisco, for bus storage associated with the Transbay Transit Center. A no or low cost lease is consistent with the cooperative agreement entered into between the state and the Transbay Joint Powers Authority, the provisions of Street & Highways Code Section 104.12 (b), and the State's priorities to reduce congestion, petroleum use and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Transbay Transit Center is a visionary transportation project that is transforming downtown San Francisco. It will provide a modern regional transit hub connecting eight Bay Area counties and serving 11 transit systems. AC Transit and Golden Gate bus service will continue to provide the overwhelming majority of the Transbay commuter service when the Transit Center opens in December 2017, making it critical to provide affordable off-peak storage facilities in order to capture the environmental benefits, attract new riders, and increase service.

In 2002 the goal of modernizing the Transbay Terminal was started with the passage of AB 1419 (Aroner). While this bill was vetoed, Governor Davis in his veto message directed Caltrans to administratively implement the provisions of AB 1419. An administrative avenue was taken to avoid any conflicts with the retrofit work on the west approaches to the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. This includes provisions in AB 1419 for Caltrans to permit the use of property under elevated freeways for bus storage without cost or charge.

The ability for Caltrans to lease these parcels at no cost is specifically authorized in paragraph (b) of Streets & Highways Code Section 104.12. While the goal of leasing Caltrans parcels is to maximize the revenue for our highway system, existing law specifically authorizes Caltrans to enter into a lease with or without charge for public mass transit facilities. This exception to the fair market lease rate is critical to provide the financial resources that enable public transit

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operators to provide or expand transit service along congested highway corridors to the benefit of all highway users.

Executing a long term no cost lease will make a significant stride toward meeting Caltrans' emission reduction goals. Placing an economic burden on AC Transit and Golden Gate to utilize the bus parking facility at Transbay not only impacts the ability to provide transit service in other areas, it could force these operators to deadhead buses to the East Bay and North Bay during the off peak times. Use of the Transbay parking facility by AC Transit would eliminate over 25,500 trips across the Bay Bridge annually and over 366,000 miles traveled annually. This would eliminate over 1,500 tons of carbon emissions annually. For Golden Gate Transit, use of the current bus parking facility at Third and Perry Streets eliminates over 39,000 annual bus trips and 700,000 annual deadhead miles. The availability of the current GGT bus lot eliminates up to 2,660 tons of carbon emissions annually.

The use of these parcels as a bus storage facility with dedicated access to the Transbay Transit Center will serve the public good by promoting mass transit, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and alleviating congestion on the Bay and Golden Gate Bridges. Therefore, we urge the Commission to approve a no, or low, cost lease for the bus storage facilities at the Transbay Transit Center.

Sincerely,

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Cc: Members of the California Transportation Commission
Susan Branson, Executive Director, CTC
Brian Kelly, Secretary, California Transportation Agency
Malcolm Dougherty, Director, Caltrans
Bijan Sartipi, District 4 Director, Caltrans

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_Assemblyman Marc Levine_____

_Senator Lois Wolk_____

_Assemblyman Tony Thurmond ___

_Senator Mike McGuire_____

_Senator Loni Hancock_____

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Assemblyman David Chiu _____

Assemblyman Bill Quirk_____

Assemblyman Kansen Chu_____

Senator Mark Leno_____

Assemblyman Rob Bonta_____

Assemblyman Bill Dodd_____

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