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April 18, 2018

The Honorable Sam Liccardo, Chair & Board of Directors  
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority  
331 North First Street  
San Jose, CA 95134-1906

Dear Chair Liccardo and Board Members:

Please consider this letter as a request for the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) to immediately advance funding for the continuation of the State Route (SR) 85 Transit Guideway Study, Tasks 2 and 3. It is critical to continue to capture the engagement and momentum that has been a concerted three year effort to begin to relieve this congested corridor that is so important to the valley's economy. Putting this effort on hold for the anticipated 6-12 months for the legal challenge to Measure B to be resolved would be a major setback.

As you know, the study is the first positive step after a concerted effort by the West Valley cities to bring much needed transit service up the SR 85 corridor from south San Jose to northern job centers, most notably Cupertino and Mountain View. Through the development of Santa Clara County Transportation Tax Measure B, the West Valley cities, our residents, and our employers coalesced around the idea of a finding a progressive and long-term transit concept to have a real impact on traffic congestion, which is critical to allow the valley to continue to thrive economically. Ultimately, an allocation of \$350 million was established within Measure B to study and then initiate the implementation of the preferred guideway alternative. An SR 85 Policy Advisory Board (SR 85 PAB) was initiated in January 2016 to oversee a transit guideway study for the corridor and to ultimately make recommendations to the VTA Board of Directors regarding transit infrastructure investment in the corridor.

In May 2017, due to interest in advancing the SR 85 Transit Guideway Study, VTA's Board of Directors approved an allocation of \$400,000 in 2000 Measure A funds to begin work on Task 1 of the study, which included a travel market analysis and corridor constraints analysis. The funding for the SR 85 Transit Guideway Study is intended to come from the 2016 Measure B, however, with Measure B currently under legal challenge, the revenues being generated are being placed in an escrow account, unable to be spent until the legal challenge is resolved. Work on future tasks was also to be funded by Measure B. At the time, the Board of Directors envisioned that the lawsuit would be resolved by the time Task 1 was completed. VTA staff told the SR 85 PAB at their February 26, 2018 meeting that Task 1 was anticipated to be complete in April, but then the project would be paused for 6-12 months while the legal challenge is resolved.

It is envisioned that Task 2, development of project alternatives, and Task 3, alternatives analysis, will take about 8 to 10 months to complete, once work has begun. The alternatives analysis will produce a report that compares each of the alternatives across many metrics such as ridership, cost to build, cost to operate, travel speed, greenhouse gas emissions, etc. The purpose of the analysis is to provide the SR 85 PAB and VTA's Board of Directors with a fair and accurate accounting of each project that can inform their decision about transit infrastructure investment on the SR 85 corridor. We ask you to immediately fund this effort and don't allow the positive engagement and momentum behind this effort to be paused.

Sincerely,

Darcy Paul, Mayor  
City of Cupertino

cc: Nuria I. Fernandez, General Manager, VTA