



October 24, 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 write on behalf of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group in 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.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group, founded in 1978 by David Packard of Hewlett-Packard, represents more than 345 of Silicon Valley's most respected employers on issues, programs and campaigns that affect the economic health and quality of life in Silicon Valley, including energy, transportation, education, housing, health care, tax policies, economic vitality and the environment. Leadership Group members collectively provide nearly one of every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley.

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 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.

The Leadership Group supports the BART extension to Santa Clara County and this TIGER III grant request will assist in completing a critical element of the initial phase of the BART Extension to San Jose.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to approve the TIGER III grant application jointly submitted by the San Francisco BART and the Santa Clara VTA for the Trackwork, Maintenance & Engineering Storage Yard Project at the BART Hayward Yard Maintenance Complex.

Sincerely,

Carl Guardino
President & CEO

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