



November 2, 2011

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

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

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 (total cost \$369 million). This Phase I project involves constructing an outdoor storage area for maintenance and engineering materials and equipment, building track access to new maintenance facilities from the existing mainline, and improving access for BART maintenance operations. The total cost of the Phase 1 project is \$56.5 million, so the requested \$15 million will be leveraged more than three to one. It will create approximately 600 job years of work, boosting the economy of a region that currently has double-digit unemployment in the construction trades.

This project is a critical component of BART's Silicon Valley extension. It will allow BART to keep its existing rail cars—currently the oldest operating passenger fleet in the nation—in a state of good repair, and it will support ongoing maintenance and engineering for the new Silicon Valley extension. This is an important project for both immediate job-creation needs and for the long-term future of this region, and the Bay Area Council urges you to approve the TIGER III grant request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Wunderman'.

Jim Wunderman
President and CEO