



August 8, 2019

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Silicon Valley Leadership Group
2001 Gateway Place, Suite 101E
San Jose, CA 95110

Alicia John-Baptiste, President and CEO
SPUR
654 Mission Street
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Jim Wunderman, President and CEO
Bay Area Council
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Jo Ann Prompongsatorn Farrant &
Ann Cheng, Co-Executive Directors
TransForm
436 14th Street, Suite 600
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1 Improvement Program Inclusion in FASTER Bay Area

Dear Carl, Jim, Alicia, Jo Ann, and Ann,

We are pleased that the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, Bay Area Council, SPUR, and TransForm are working in partnership to place FASTER Bay Area on the November 2020 ballot for Bay Area voters. Assuming this moves forward, the Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group (ITV) strongly supports the inclusion of \$1.9 billion for the Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1 Improvements Program as part of FASTER Bay Area.

The Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group (ITV) is led by business leaders and influencers committed to connecting the businesses, research labs, educational institutions, and civic leaders in the Tri-Valley region. This collaborative force is generating job growth and economic vitality for a region that is globally connected, regionally united, and locally unique. In fact, the Tri-Valley is the fastest growing region in the Bay Area delivering a \$42 billion GDP, is home to over 450 technology companies, and has generated over \$4 billion in VC investment in the past 10 years. As a matter of economic necessity, proper environmental stewardship, and social justice, ITV strongly believe it is essential that FASTER Bay Area includes improvements to the Altamont corridor and is the absolute highest priority of the community we represent.

The Altamont Corridor that connects the San Joaquin Valley to the Bay Area is one of the most heavily traveled, most congested, and fastest growing corridors in the Northern California megaregion. The Bay Area Council estimates that congestion will increase an additional 75% between 2016 and 2040. Simply put, we have many jobs that have been and will continue to be created in the Bay Area but the residential growth is occurring in San Joaquin and Stanislaus County. Even if affordable housing production increases locally, more still needs to be done to connect where many people currently live (the San Joaquin Valley) with where they work (the Bay Area).



The Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1 Improvement Program is part of the solution in that it will provide safe, frequent, and reliable regional rail service in the corridor to create greater connectivity, access to jobs, educational opportunities, health care facilities and an overall improved quality of life by modernizing passenger rail. The vastly improved infrastructure through the Altamont Pass would be separated from freight, double tracked, grade separated, and enable fast (up to 125 mph maximum speeds), and frequent service. The Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1 Improvement Program is the first step towards the completion of the Altamont Corridor Vision which is consistent with the 2018 State Rail Plan, 2007 MTC Regional Rail Plan, MTC Resolution 3829 from 2007, and the CHSRA's Altamont Corridor Rail Project.

Specific benefits of the Altamont Corridor Phase 1 Improvement Program are as follows:

- Substantially increasing regional rail ridership in the Altamont (I-580/I-680) Corridor.
- Reducing the amount of greenhouse gases and air pollution emissions by diverting trips that would have previously been taken by an automobile.
- Relieving congestion on some of the Bay Area's most congested freeways (I-580/I-680 Corridor)
- Dramatically increasing transit-oriented development throughout the Altamont Corridor

The transformative Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1 Improvement Program would have a very positive effect on the Northern California Megaregion's underserved priority and rural communities by providing a convenient and inexpensive alternative to the rising costs of automobile. Connecting these San Joaquin Valley communities to the Bay Area's large economic centers would increase safe and affordable transportation options between these communities. The Vision would also foster more compact and sustainable growth, providing access to affordable housing and a chance to rebalance the job centers equitably.

We are pleased to provide this letter of strong support of the Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1 Improvement Program to be included as part of FASTER Bay Area to help move the Bay Area and the Northern California Megaregion forward. Other related items we feel should be included in the measure include improvements to the I-580/I-680 interchange and "one seat-one ride" rail service from the Tri-Valley to Silicon Valley by completing the Bay Fair Connector envisioned with the passage of Alameda County's Measure BB in 2014.

Thank you in advance for consideration of our request. It is our desire to be involved and helpful as the crafting of the FASTER Bay Area is finalized and we are hopeful that the benefits of the measure benefit the entire region.

Sincerely,

Steve Lanza

Chair, Innovation TRIVALLEY Leadership Group

Vice President, Lam Research

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