

The Board of Supervisors

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Contra Costa County



David Twa
Clerk of the Board
and
County Administrator
(925) 335-1900

February 23, 2016

Honorable Dave Cortese, Chair
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, California 94607

Re: San Francisco Bay Area Goods Movement Plan

Dear Chair Cortese:

As Chair of the Board of Supervisor's Transportation, Water, and Infrastructure Committee, I am writing to provide input on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's "*San Francisco Bay Area Goods Movement Plan*", in the hopes that it will expand the Commission's approach to addressing Bay Area goods movement in the future. Our concern begins with the misleading title suggesting that the study is regional. Issues beyond the Port of Oakland are largely ignored.

Land Use: At a recent Freight/Goods Movement Collaborative Workshop it was stated that without addressing land use in a more substantial manner the Bay Area plan is incomplete. The County agrees with this comment. We understand that this may not be an issue for Alameda County, whose land use in the port area is stable relative to other "niche" or outlying ports and shoreside industrial/commercial areas. However, land use *is* an issue for Contra Costa County. Without assistance to help preserve and develop industrial lands around the outlying ports and shoreside facilities, the region will experience the following:

- Lost industrial lands (to other, incompatible uses) which make the ports and shoreside facilities viable.
- Increased dependence on the Port of Oakland.
- This dependency will drastically limit expansive opportunities for the region as a whole.
- This dependency also reduces reliability which results in a much more fragile freight movement infrastructure which again, does not improve goods movement for the region but rather serves to compromise it.
- These land use changes are effectively permanent, and as such warrants attention in the regional plan and action with the appropriate level of urgency.
- Negative impacts on Bay Area freeways greater than we already suffer.

Priority Industrial Areas: MTC should diversify the regional goods movement dialog and plan to more substantially include outlying ports, shoreside industrial/commercial areas, and address related land use

issues. More specifically, MTC should accelerate the development and funding of Priority Industrial Areas (PIA) in order to diversify the region's goods movement infrastructure portfolio. Our own Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative, and the region as a whole, would benefit greatly from such a program.

TriLink (State Route 239): The *Feasibility Study Final Report* for the TriLink project highlighted substantial benefits to goods movement in the region. A plan with a more regional focus is also likely to highlight the benefits of goods movement supportive infrastructure in Contra Costa, such as TriLink and Northern Waterfront related projects. Despite these benefits, the TriLink program of projects was absent from any *Opportunity Package* project list.

Environmental and Community Impacts: Consistent with the Plan's goal to "*Reduce environmental and community impacts from goods movement operations to create healthy communities and a clean environment, and improve quality of life for those communities most impacted by goods movement*", implementation of the Plan by MTC should assess the health impacts that are likely to occur and identify mitigation strategies addressing those impacts.

Job Creation: I welcome the attention paid to middle wage job creation. However, the attention seems to be focused on creating jobs in areas that have existing, extreme congestion issues. Contra Costa County has vacant and underutilized land which, with the benefit of a PIA program, could provide those jobs and forgo congestion increases by making use of the off peak direction transportation facilities which have excess capacity.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. I believe these changes would support a truly regional goods movement plan and system. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact John Cunningham, Principal Planner at 925-674-7833 or john.cunningham@dcd.cccounty.us.

Sincerely,



Mary N. Piepho, Chair
Transportation, Water, and Infrastructure Committee
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, District III

Copy:

Candace Andersen, Chair – Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Federal Glover, MTC – Representing Contra Costa County
Amy Worth, MTC – Representing Cities of Contra Costa County
Julie Pierce, Chair – Contra Costa Transportation Authority
Matt Maloney, Principal – Metropolitan Transportation Commission