



SFMTA
Municipal
Transportation
Agency

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May 29, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: TIGER 2015 Request for San Francisco's 22 Fillmore Transit Priority Project

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), I am pleased to submit this request for \$20 million from the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program for San Francisco's proposed 22 Fillmore Transit Priority Project. The project will dramatically improve transportation and enhance economic vitality along 16th Street, a major east-west corridor in San Francisco that connects vibrant, established communities to areas undergoing dramatic growth and change.

Starting from the west on Church Street, the project connects with Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) regional rail in San Francisco's vibrant Mission District, and runs east through established Potrero Hill and fast-growing Mission Bay neighborhoods, and connecting to the SFMTA's T Third Street light rail line and the proposed site of the new Golden State Warriors National Basketball Association (NBA) arena. The project's 2.3-mile corridor is well poised and ready for a unified series of multimodal treatments to integrate and better serve this quickly transforming area.

The project will provide direct and improved east-west connections to centers of employment, healthcare services and education. With thousands of new jobs at all wage levels coming on line along the whole corridor, and in Mission Bay in particular, it is essential to improve access on transit, by bicycle and on foot so current and future workers are allowed to directly participate in the "ladders of opportunity" goals set by the Administration for this year's TIGER program.

We are advancing this project now as a critical need following three timely developments:

- **Launching of Muni Forward transit service improvements and expansion:** An outcome of the multi-year Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP) planning process, Muni Forward brings together in one place all programs and efforts underway to create a safer, more reliable, more efficient transit system. Under this program, the SFMTA plans to increase transit service by 15 percent over the next two years and implement an additional 22 miles of transit-only lanes. As the major east-west corridor in a growing area, 16th Street is a part of the new Muni Rapid Network. The 22 Fillmore Transit Priority Project is key to creating a true Rapid Network in San Francisco.

- **Project funding plan:** In November 2014, the voters of San Francisco passed the \$500 million Transportation and Road Improvement Bond with 72 percent support. This general obligation bond is a critical first piece to raise \$3 billion in new revenue identified by San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee's Transportation Task Force as necessary to repair the local transportation system and prepare it for the future. The bond will provide \$21.6 million to fund the 22 Fillmore Transit Priority Project, slightly more than the TIGER program request itself. The project is also supported by over \$14 million of San Francisco Eastern Neighborhood developer fee funds, an unprecedented local contribution toward a transportation project.
- **Phenomenal growth in Mission Bay:** The NBA's Golden State Warriors team announced plans to build and open a waterfront arena near the proposed terminus of the 22 Fillmore line. The privately financed venue will be built at the east end of 16th Street. The arena, however, is just one substantial piece of the redevelopment surge underway in Mission Bay. The University of California-San Francisco has opened its UCSF Medical Center at Mission Bay that includes three hospitals and a K12 school. Construction cranes dot Mission Bay's skyline as housing and commerce development explodes – all within walking distance of the 22 Fillmore Transit Priority Project.

This project has been reviewed and endorsed by a wide array of stakeholders including Mayor Lee, the San Francisco County Transportation Authority, the 11 members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, along with numerous community stakeholders. Securing TIGER funds will enable the SFMTA to complete the project's funding plan and solve a long-standing citywide access problem through an array of thoughtful and cost-effective multimodal improvements.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important project for TIGER program funding. Please do not hesitate to call me at (415) 701-4720 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Edward D. Reiskin
Director of Transportation

cc: Mayor Edwin M. Lee

