

April 25, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx Secretary of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE Washington, D.C. 20590

Edwin M. Lee, Mayor

Tom Nolan, *Chairman* Malcolm Heinicke, *Director* Joél Ramos, *Director*

Cheryl Brinkman, Vice-Chairman Jerry Lee, *Director* Cristina Rubke, *Director*

Edward D. Reiskin, *Director of Transportation*

Subject: San Francisco's TIGER 2014 Request for 16th Street Multimodal Corridor Project

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), I am pleased to submit this request for \$10 million of TIGER 2014 funds for San Francisco's proposed 16th Street Multimodal Corridor Project ("Project"). From the west on Church Street, passing by BART in the City's vibrant Mission District, connecting through the Eastern Neighborhoods, and ending at the SFMTA's 3rd Street light rail line, and announced site of the new Golden State Warriors NBA arena, the 2.3-mile corridor is well poised and ready for a unified series of multimodal treatments. The Project will provide direct and improved east-west connections to centers of employment, health care services and education, and truly embodies the "ladders of opportunity" goals of the Administration for this year's TIGER program.

The Project is being advanced now as a result of three very timely developments:

- State Environmental Clearance of Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP) in March 2014: The TEP analyzed all of SFMTA's Muni transit services and made a series of recommendations for increasing transit capacity on high ridership corridors. The 16th Street corridor is one of the first corridors designated for immediate upgrades. Environmental clearance clears the way for this critical Project to move ahead.
- Caltrain Rail Crossing Challenge Resolved: Direct east-west, electrified transit service is at long last viable. 16th Street is the major east-west link between San Francisco's densely populated Mission District and the burgeoning Mission Bay. Currently, the corridor does not have direct transit service despite its importance in linking multiple neighborhoods. A key barrier to launching an electrified trolley coach service has been crossing the Caltrain commuter rail (and future California High Speed Rail) right of way. In January, 2014, Caltrain staff presented a conceptual solution for having an electrified Muni trolley coach safely cross the future, electrified Caltrain line.
- Professional Arena Location Plans Announced: Just last week, the NBA Golden State Warriors Basketball team announced its plans to build and open a waterfront arena by 2019. The privately financed venue will be built at the east end 16th Street and presents an incredible opportunity for the corridor to be upgraded to make successful direct linkages to the new arena.

This Project has been vetted and endorsed by a wide array of stakeholders including San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee, the San Francisco County Transportation Authority, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, along with 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, cost-effective, multimodal improvements.

We look forward to a favorable review. Please do not hesitate to call me at (415) 701-4720 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Edward D. Reiskin Director of Transportation

cc:

Mayor Edwin M. Lee

Tom Nolan – Chair, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency John Avalos – Chair, San Francisco County Transportation Authority Amy Worth – Chair, Metropolitan Transportation Commission

