



October 18, 2016

Mr. Bob Alvarado, Chair
 California Transportation Commission
 1120 N Street, MS-52
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Item 2.4c(4): Transbay Transit Center Bus Storage Facilities

Dear Commissioner Alvarado:

We are writing to express our concerns with the Department's proposed lease rate for bus storage facilities at the Transbay Transit Center. While the 50% discount proposed by Caltrans is generous, the astronomical lease rates demanded in San Francisco would still result in a \$240,000 annual increase for Golden Gate Transit, and the discounted rate for AC Transit would be twice the cost of simply deadheading these empty buses back to Oakland.

Caltrans' report refers to Governor Brown's Executive Order to reduce GHG emission by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, and SB 32's goal of reducing GHG emission by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. As correctly stated in the report utilizing a storage facility at Transbay will reduce GHG emissions by AC Transit by at least 1,500 tons annually. Unfortunately none of the emission benefits will be realized if an agreement on a no or low cost rate can be achieved.

Recently, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) released its annual list of the top 10 most congested corridors in the Bay Area. The Number 1 and Number 2 most congested corridors included the east and west bound lanes of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. Providing an affordable lease rate to store buses at the Terminal would remove 25,500 AC Transit bus trips from the Bay Bridge annually. If Golden Gate is forced to deadhead its buses to Marin, it would add 39,000 additional trips, or 700,000 annual deadhead miles to San Francisco's streets and the Hwy 101 corridor.

AC Transit's and Golden Gate Transit's core mission is to not only provide a commute option to San Francisco, but to provide safety net transportation options to residents throughout its service area. Entering into the lease proposed by Caltrans will place a significant economic burden on our agencies and will ultimately impact our ability to provide adequate service to all of our riders.

We stand with our Legislative delegation and Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom and urge you to reconsider staff's proposal and approve a no or low cost lease that will serve the public good by promoting mass transit, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and alleviating congestion on the Bay and Golden Gate Bridges.

Sincerely,



Michael Hursh
General Manager, AC Transit



Denis J. Mulligan
General Manager, Golden Gate Bridge
Highway & Transportation District



Mark Zabaneh, P.E.
Interim Executive Director
Transbay Joint Powers Authority



Ed Reiskin
Director of Transportation
San Francisco Municipal Transportation
Authority