



SPUR

San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Budget and Finance Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

September 10, 2021

Re: Agenda Item 8. Issuance of Tax Bonds - Community Facilities District No. 2014-1 (Transbay Transit Center)- Not to Exceed \$35,000,000

Dear Supervisors Haney, Mar and Safai,

We encourage the Board of Supervisors to issue \$30 million in Transbay Transit Center Community Facilities District (CFD) bonds to advance the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) Project. SPUR has long supported the extension of Caltrain service from its current northern terminus at San Francisco's Fourth and King streets to the new Salesforce Transit Center.

The Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) would bring high-quality rail service to the densest job center in the region, shorten trip times between Millbrae and San Francisco, connect San Francisco to other cities in the statewide high-speed rail network, and offer a one-seat Caltrain ride between Market Street and the cities along the Caltrain Corridor. In the future, this train could extend across San Francisco Bay and connect with the rail network in the East Bay.

The potential to receive federal funding for this project may never be as favorable as it is today. This Transbay Transit Center Community Facilities District (CFD) Series 2021 bond issuance process will provide the necessary committed funding that FTA requires for the DTX to enter the New Starts pipeline. Moving forward now will allow San Francisco to submit a Full Funding Grant Request in August 2023 during an exciting time for once-in-a-generation transit funding on the federal level.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on and support this important milestone. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions at ltolkoff@spur.org.

Sincerely,

Laura Tolkoff
Transportation Policy Director