



SPUR

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Mr. David Rabbitt, Chair
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
375 Beale Street, Ste. 800
San Francisco, CA 94105

May 11, 2021

Re: Item 4a. MTC Resolution No. 4202, Revised – Distribution of Highway Infrastructure Funding Provided through CRRSAA and Augmentation to the Safe and Seamless Mobility Quick-Strike program

Dear Chair Rabbitt and Commissioners:

SPUR enthusiastically appreciates and supports the proposal to allocate nearly half of the discretionary Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) funds to the scale up and improve customer experience as part of the Quick-Strike Program. This is a meaningful way to accelerate ongoing coordination efforts between operators and MTC, to improve customer experience, and to reduce barriers to transit use.

Over the next few months, we encourage the Commission to allocate a portion of funds from the American Rescue Plan for other customer experience improvements that advance a more seamless regional transit network, such as implementing fare integration efforts, launching a pass to attract riders in September or as the economy reopens, and short- and long-term service coordination.

We also offer the following amendments to the proposed distribution of funds for the “Planning and Programming” category under “Regional Corridor Projects”:

- We recommend increasing the funding allocated to Planning and Programming for regional planning activities such as PDA Planning and Implementation—and particularly for implementation—in order to help municipalities deliver on regional goals for creating equitable and sustainable transit-oriented communities.
- We recommend allocating funds specifically for the development of a regional transit priority network plan and implementation of local transit priority measures. As the economy reopens, many people are likely to drive out of fear of COVID-19 pathogens. This means that bus service will become increasingly slow and unreliable for riders and more expensive for operators to provide. The Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force has found a strong consensus that delivering transit priority on local streets and arterials is essential. In addition, Assemblymember Chiu's bill, AB 629, supports the concept of a regional transit priority network as a tool to bring a coherent and streamlined approach to delivering transit priority investments. Doing the work now to develop a priority network

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will ensure that we are better prepared to implement transit priority projects with support from the American Rescue Plan or other funding opportunities.

Thank you for thinking creatively about using the unprecedented opportunity that CRRSAA presents to ensure that the road to recovery is not filled with cars.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Laura Tolhoff', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Laura Tolhoff
Transportation Policy Director