August 5, 2025

RE: Agenda item 12.b.ii - Receive Update on and Consider Opting In to Senate Bill 63 Regional Transportation Funding Measure

Dear Chair Gee, Vice Chair Chuang and Board Members,

SPUR, the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association, is a strong supporter of transit in the Bay Area and across the state. We rely on transit to keep our roads moving, to support housing and office growth, to keep our environment clean and as a safety net for some of our region's most vulnerable residents. We are tremendously concerned that Caltrain, BART, MUNI and AC Transit - systems that account for more than 80% of all transit ridership in the region - stand at the precipice of financial catastrophe. We have been further troubled to learn that critical local transit agencies like SamTrans and VTA are also facing financial challenges in the near future. For all of these reasons, SPUR has been a steadfast supporter of SB 63 and has spent the last year working to ensure that the bill can meet the needs of the entire Bay Area - including San Mateo County.

We are writing today to urge the SamTrans Board to opt into SB 63 at the ½ cent level. We believe that SB 63 has been significantly shaped and improved through dialog with San Mateo County stakeholders and are confident that the bill provides San Mateo County with an exceptional opportunity to invest in both the regional and local transit systems that thousands of your residents rely on every day.

We also understand that accountability remains an outstanding challenge of great importance to leaders in San Mateo County. SPUR acknowledges the valid concerns expressed by County leaders and we support the strengthening of accountability requirements to ensure that all counties participating in a regional measure are treated fairly and equally by operators. At the same time, we have concerns about adding any accountability requirements to this regional bill that are highly specific to one county or that would provoke a perception of unfairness among other jurisdictions who are also participating in the measure. **We urge a regional approach to strengthening accountability- one that both fully satisfies the needs of San Mateo County while also providing the same benefits to other jurisdictions participating in the measure.**

Thank you for your consideration and for the time and care you are dedicating to this critical regional issue.

Sincerely,
Sebastian Petty, Senior Policy Advisor, SPUR

August 6, 2025

RE: Agenda item 8.2 - Adopt a position on SB 63 (Wiener/Arreguin)

Dear Chair Lopez, Vice Chair Mahan and Board Members,

SPUR, the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association, is a strong supporter of transit in the Bay Area and across the state. We rely on transit to keep our roads moving, to support housing and office growth, to keep our environment clean and as a safety net for some of our region's most vulnerable residents.   We are tremendously concerned that Caltrain, BART, MUNI and AC Transit - systems that account for more than 80% of all transit ridership in the region - stand at the precipice of financial catastrophe. We have been further troubled to learn that critical local transit agencies like VTA and SamTrans are also facing financial challenges in the near future.   For all of these reasons, SPUR has been a steadfast supporter of SB 63 and has spent the last year working to ensure that the bill can meet the needs of the entire Bay Area - including Santa Clara County.

We are writing today to urge the VTA Board to opt into SB 63 at the ½ cent level. We believe that SB 63 has been significantly shaped and improved through dialog with Santa Clara County stakeholders and are confident that the bill provides Santa Clara with an exceptional - and fair- opportunity to invest in both the regional and local transit systems that tens of thousands of your residents rely on every day.

Thank you for your consideration and for the time and care you are dedicating to this critical regional issue.

Sincerely,
Sebastian Petty, Senior Policy Advisor, SPUR