

March 6, 2018

Mr. Andrew Thomas
City of Alameda Assistant Community Development Director
2263 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I write regarding the agenda item on tonight's City Council agenda related to the Line 19 subsidy funding agreement. We appreciate the City Council taking the opportunity to consider funding this subsidy over the next 30 months, the time we anticipate it will take for the Alameda Transportation Management Association (ATMA) to resume full funding of the subsidy.

Restoration of the Line 19 service in late 2016 created a line that increased ridership over the last fifteen months. It has proven to be not only viable, but a crucial element for the existing Northern Waterfront neighborhoods surrounding the route and the new developments that will ensue, providing solid linkages off the island and to BART. We believe the 20-minute service has been pivotal to its success to date.

With assessment revenue essentially from only 141 homes, current ATMA revenues do not allow us to fully fund the 20-minute service beyond June 2018, but it does permit us to fund AC Transit Easy Passes for each of the 141 households in two developments (Marina Shores and Mulberry). By continuing to avail residents of these communities transit service at very low cost, we will continue to aid in Line 19's viability and support Citywide and ATMA goals of developing and maintaining transit options that prove effective.

The ATMA wishes to provide whatever support it can to the subsidy, given its limited revenues. We have evaluated our estimated budget, and based on its assumptions, determined that if the City approves the 30-month funding, ATMA can contribute up to \$40,000 per year, or a total of about \$100,000 over the term of the funding agreement. Such a contribution could reduce the anticipated level of City funding by over 20%. We also look forward to partnering with City staff to find additional new sources of funding to further reduce the City's burden.

We would greatly appreciate the City providing this bridge in funding to support the subsidy over the next 30 months as we believe 20-minute commute hour service in the Northern Waterfront makes it easier for residents to choose transit by providing a convenient alternative to driving; having headways of less than 30 minutes increases the public's sense of this service as a viable transit option. We value our partnership with the City of Alameda in increasing viable transit opportunities for residents and businesses and appreciate your consideration of this funding agreement.

Sincerely,



Michael S. O'Hara
Board Chair
Alameda Transportation Management Association