

From: [Andrea Krout](#)
To: [Plan BayArea Info](#)
Subject: FW: Plan Bay Area Amendment letter of support
Date: Friday, August 23, 2024 11:40:17 AM
Attachments: [SonomaCounty SMART PBA2050Amendment August2024 Support.pdf](#)

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External Email

To Whom It May Concern,

Attached please find a letter of support from Chair Rabbitt and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors regarding Plan Bay Area 2050 amendment support.

Sincerely,

Andrea L. Krout

District Director, Supervisor David Rabbitt
Second District, County of Sonoma

575 Administration Drive, Room 100A
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August 20, 2024

Commissioner Alfredo Pedroza, Chair
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Plan Bay Area 2050 Amendment - Support

Dear Chair Pedroza,

On behalf of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, we are pleased to support the pending amendment for the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART) expansion north connecting Healdsburg to the SMART Rail and Pathway network.

SMART is experiencing unprecedented ridership growth as the pandemic and fire traumas fade and the new North Bay travel patterns emerge. Starting Spring 2025, the SMART system will cover 48- of the 70-mile voter approved railroad, with 14 stations and 37 miles of pathway open to the public. SMART is providing more service on both weekdays and weekends than was originally planned and the frequency is attracting new riders every day. When combined with SMART's new short line freight railroad services, the entire system is critical to the economic development of North Bay communities and industries.

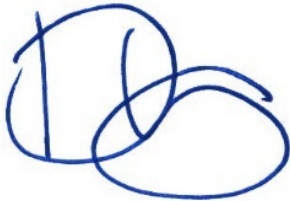
Connecting Santa Rosa and the Sonoma County Airport Area, home to 7,700 jobs, by rail with our North Sonoma County cities is our next critical task. Completing the network will make our Santa Rosa stations perform better as they will have people commuting in from both the north and south, just as they do on Highway 101. As it stands now, SMART's Santa Rosa stations are only connected south and thus only half-utilized.

The fire, flood and pandemic disasters our county has experienced between 2017 and 2021 have shown us that to be prepared for catastrophic events we must create options for community essentials like transportation choice, housing availability, freight transport logistic options and broadband access. Every jurisdiction in Sonoma County has current State approved Housing Elements and five Sonoma County jurisdictions have received State Pro-Housing Designation.

We are working hard to grow housing options and request the MTC's support for completion of the SMART system to meet the climate friendly transportation and access needs of our residents and workers. Every community in the North Bay that can benefit from the rail and pathway asset should be given the opportunity. The investment in SMART brings opportunities and opens possibilities for families throughout our communities.

We thank you for your consideration of this Plan Bay Area 2050 amendment request to match our community's and our voters' commitment to a healthier transportation future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a vertical line, likely representing the name David Rabbitt.

David Rabbitt,
Second District Supervisor, Sonoma County

CC: Sonoma County Board of Supervisors