



May 26, 2023

Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Skinner and Chair Ting,

As members of the Bay Area Council, we are deeply committed to saving and improving our transit systems which is essential to our region's economic future. Despite the recent rise of remote work, residents of all income levels still depend on BART, MUNI, and transit systems across the region to access their jobs. If these impending service cuts make it so difficult for people to commute, we risk losing our workforce and our economic engine along with them. That is why the Bay Area Council has dedicated considerable resources to helping to lead the advocacy to secure state budget operating assistance to avert the transit fiscal cliff.

Yet this crisis also brings an opportunity to rebuild transit into a better service that meets the needs of residents now and for decades to come. As leaders of the State Legislature, this is your opportunity to have a role in making these systems better. You can require that transit operators that receive fiscal cliff emergency funds participate in rider improvement initiatives to improve customer experience and operator efficiency. You have leverage to compel desperately-needed improvements, and you can shape how they do it.

This is not a bailout, it is an investment in transforming our transit systems for the future.

We urge you to help us secure funding to avert the fiscal cliff and tie that money to improvements on the systems. This is a once in a generation opportunity to influence how transit operates in the Bay Area, and we hope you will take the chance to move our region forward.

Sincerely,

Bay Area Council

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