



East Bay Economic Development Alliance
The bright side of the San Francisco Bay

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November 7, 2007

Mr. James Ghielmetti
Chairman
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Dale E. Bonner
Secretary, Business Transportation & Housing Agency
State of California
980 9th Street, Suite 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Ghielmetti and Secretary Bonner:

As you move toward decisions on the guidelines and eligibility criteria for the Trade Corridors Improvement Fund, on behalf of the East Bay Economic Development Alliance (East Bay EDA), we want to voice our support for certain principles that should be factored into the framework for this program.

First, we strongly support criteria that encourage corridor based planning that emphasizes how a program of projects works to improve goods movement. This principal has guided Northern California's efforts to develop consensus around a comprehensive program of rail and highway projects along the two primary trade corridors designed to meet current and future requirements for moving goods quickly, reliably and safely, with less highway congestion and pollution.

Secondly, we support criteria that encourage investments that strengthen each region's role within the goods movement system with emphasis on the benefits provided to key trade corridors, through increased throughput, velocity and reliability. There are key bottlenecks serving Northern California that, if improved, can open up significant capacity and result in major system-wide benefits rather than simply shifting bottlenecks around the state. Targeted, strategic investments in rail and highway infrastructure providing access to the Port of Oakland, and networking with other ports serving Northern California trade corridors can provide a balanced, multi-model approach to goods movement.

East Bay EDA has been active in statewide goods movement planning efforts having served as a member of the BTH and Cal/EPA Integrating Work Group. We work closely with our transportation planning agencies and value the collaborative interregional leadership efforts they are taking to address Northern California's escalating goods movement challenges. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Kern". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "K".

Bruce Kern
Executive Director
East Bay Economic Development Alliance

BK:djh

cc: Executive Committee Members
Steve Heminger, Executive Director, MTC
Andrew Chesley, Executive Director, SJCOG
Mike McKeever, Executive Director, SACOG
Vince Harris, Executive Director, StanCOG