



22 March 2024

Mr. Michael S. Regan, Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

RE: EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program

Dear Mr. Regan:

On behalf of the Oakland Roots and Soul, I am writing in support of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District's (BART) application requesting federal funding under the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program for the Mobility Nexus: Integrating Mobility, Housing and Equity for Climate Action.

BART provides a critical service to the Bay Area, providing over 48 million trips in 2023 with an overwhelmingly greenhouse-gas-free power supply. Providing safe and reliable public transportation to equity-priority communities is an important priority for the region and BART plays a major role in that objective. Nearly one-third of BART riders live in households with income under \$50,000. Just less than half of BART riders do not have a vehicle. About two-thirds of BART riders identify as non-white. BART's service directly aligns with the Bay Area's Sustainable Communities Strategy and other concurrent community, health, safety, and environmental efforts in the region, and aligns with our organization's values of making transit accessible to the broader community. As a purpose based sports organization, we encourage our fans to use public transit as much as possible and laud BART and MTC for working to make the system more accessible and safe.

The Mobility Nexus advances Plan Bay Area 2050's goals by providing access to transit and bikeshare and implementing active transportation infrastructure and safety improvements to reduce VMT and GHGs, targeting areas with a high percentage of people with low incomes.

The program includes enhanced lighting, wayfinding and signage, improved access for bikes and people with disabilities, better integration with local bus services, and charging for electric vehicles accessible to our local community. These improvements will enhance the public transit experience of riders, support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, increase access to jobs, and improve mobility for all riders – especially those in disadvantaged communities.

The Oakland Roots & Soul enthusiastically supports MTC/BART's CPRGP application. If you have any questions regarding our support, please contact me at lindsay@rootssc.com. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lindsay Barenz".

Lindsay Barenz
President