



SONOMA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION & LAND-USE COALITION

September 11, 2024

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Attn: Plan Bay Area 2050 Comments
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105

Via Email info@planbayarea.org

Re: Plan Bay Area 2050 Amendment: Sonoma-Marin Rail Transit to Healdsburg

Dear Commissioners and Staff:

For three decades the Sonoma County Transportation and Land-Use Coalition has advocated for active transportation and transit-oriented developments in the North Bay of San Francisco. We support the proposed amendment of Plan Bay Area 2050 to provide the essential funding for extension of Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) passenger and freight rail service to the City of Healdsburg.

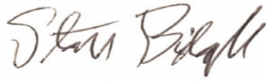
Since SMART rail service began in 2017 the train has become an important element of the North Bay's economy. There have been notable increases in ridership as more people discover that the train provides a reliable alternative to driving. We have observed significant increases in the construction of multi-story, transit-oriented housing, and we expect freight operations to begin taking more trucks off the road as the tracks extend further north. The train is proving to be a vital transportation asset for the region. Extension of service to Healdsburg is an important step toward unlocking opportunities for people and businesses located along the entire SMART corridor.

SCTLC - 684 Benicia Drive, Apt 63, Santa Rosa, CA 95409 – 707-576-6632
[scb affirm@gmail.com](mailto:scb_affirm@gmail.com)

The SMART train has been a long time in the making with a massive display of support community wide. Funding that enables SMART to extend its reach is likely to become increasingly important as our nation's population discovers the advantages of residing in a Mediterranean climate. In view of the value of passenger and freight rail service for the area between Windsor and Healdsburg, we think it is worthwhile to postpone some funding for other Sonoma County projects and programs, in favor of enabling rail service to reach the Healdsburg Station.

Please get in touch with us if you desire any further information. Our phone number is 707-576-6632. Thank you for your hard work in keeping the Plan Bay Area current.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephen Birdleough".

Stephen Birdleough, Chair, Sonoma County Transportation & Land-Use Coalition