

December 17, 2024

Rafael Mandelman, Chair
San Francisco County Transportation Authority

Re: **Note of Appreciation for SFCTA Staff**

Dear Chair Mandelman,

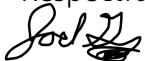
My name is Joel Goldberg and I am the Manager of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's (SFMTA) Transportation Funding Services team. I have worked for 17 years in managing the SFMTA's grants program. Across the years, I and my team have submitted hundreds of Prop K and Prop L allocation requests to your Policy and Programming staff led by Anna LaForte. I will be retiring from the SFMTA in early January and wanted to express my appreciation for Anna and her team.

As a soon-to-be private citizen, I am going to risk being blunt: Anna's team and my team operated quite like a married couple. Sometimes we'd have disagreements, and we weren't always in step. But through thick and thin I can say with complete certainty that both of our teams believed in supporting strategic transportation investments that benefited San Francisco, from the Financial District to Lake Merced, from the Presidio to the Bayview, and all the Districts you and your colleagues serve. And, Anna, I apologize in front of your Board for all the kind-of last minute allocation requests.

I quickly tip my hat today to Anna LaForte and her team: Alexandria Florin, Mike Pickford, Nick Smith, and Amelia Walley. I also want to thank other members of your team whom I've worked with, starting of course with Tilly Chang and Maria Lombardo – Maria whom I've known longer than either of us would dare admit in a public setting. Others include Joe Castiglione, Amber Crabbe, Cynthia Fong, Rachel Hiatt, Carl Holmes, Suany Chough, Jesse Koehler, Yvette Lopez-Jessop, and Christy Tou.

I'll miss working with all of them and am happy for the years we spent driving each other forward.

Respectfully,



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