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Assembly California Legislature



ROB BONTA
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
HEALTH

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March 9, 2017

California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS-52
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attn: Chair Bob Alvarado
Vice-Chair Fran Inman
Commissioner Yvonne Burke
Commissioner Lucetta Dunn
Commissioner James Earp
Commissioner James C. Ghielmetti
Commissioner Carl Guardino
Commissioner Christine Kehoe
Commissioner James Madaffer
Commissioner Joseph Tavaglione
Commissioner Honorable Jim Beall
Commissioner Honorable Jim Frazier

Re: Support for Cross Alameda Trail Project's 9-month extension request

To the CTC Chair and Commissioners:

As a long-time Alameda resident, former Alameda Councilmember and now representing Alameda, Oakland and San Leandro as an Assemblymember, I strongly support the California Transportation Commission granting a 9-month extension for the Cross Alameda Trail Project [ATPL 5014 (042)] at its March 16, 2017 meeting, rather than the originally requested 6-month extension.

The Cross Alameda Trail has a long history in the City of Alameda and was first envisioned with a City Council approved plan in 2005. The trail is a 4 mile long bicycle/pedestrian path that spans the length of the City of Alameda from the Alameda Naval Based that is now being redeveloped to the Miller Sweeney Bridge and the City of Oakland. This is critical for Alameda to have a safe route for bicyclists and pedestrians across the city. The project builds a key, off-street section of the trail and connects to other sections now underway.

This project should not lose its funding due to a bureaucratic glitch. The project is ready to go out to bid now, but all progress is halted until the 2017 federal transportation budget (TIP) is amended and approved, which is in mid-April. The City of Alameda needs an additional 3-months for a total 9-month extension to provide the appropriate time needed for a public procurement process. As a former railyard, the project site has extensive soil issues and it took

significantly longer than anticipated for the Department of Toxic Substance Control to finalize the city's soil remediation work plan. This created the initial design delay and need for additional time.

This section of the Cross Alameda Trail runs through the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park, which is a 27-acre park that also has a long history of support in Alameda. In 2002, a measure was overwhelmingly passed to zone this abandoned railyard as open space and develop it into a park. While Alameda is a relatively flat island community conducive to bicyclists, off-street trail sections like this one are a critical part of a safe, comprehensive safe bicycle system. It also connects to the primary public transportation hub on the west side of Alameda and provides safe access to the Alameda Food Bank constituents.

Thank you for reviewing this matter and I strongly urge you to grant an additional 3 months (for a total of 9 months) to the City of Alameda's extension request. If you have any questions or need further information, do not hesitate to contact my District Office at 510-286-1670.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Bonta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Rob" and "Bonta" being capitalized and prominent.

Rob Bonta
Assemblymember, 18th District