

Correspondence on Draft Plan Bay Area 2050 Amendment

Name: Pamela Browning

Date Received: 9/11/24

Comment:

Dear Chair Pedroza,

Cloverdale Indivisible represents 180 Cloverdale residents who are concerned with significant social, economic, and environmental justice issues that impact us at the local level, as well as at the state and national levels. With these concerns in mind, we have been reviewing the Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Association of Bay Area Governments (MTC/ABAG) Draft Amended Transportation Plan for the Bay Area 2050. We were shocked and dismayed to see that the 2024 draft omits Cloverdale from the 2050 plans. As early as 1997, Cloverdale built a train station in preparation for transit coming to our community. This reflects how important SMART is to our residents. Moreover, this year we broke ground on building 75 affordable housing units, all within short walking distance from this station, in anticipation of this promised transit. Cloverdale has been Federally designated as a historically disadvantaged community for low income and low educational attainment. For us, SMART will be a Social and Economic Justice elevator. SMART will help level the playing field for disadvantaged students in Cloverdale by increasing access for our students to Jr. College, colleges and universities.

Smart will open up many more job opportunities for our workforce, and it is essential for maximizing job opportunities and taking Cloverdale workers to jobs throughout the Bay Area. Buses from Cloverdale to Santa Rosa currently take 1.5 hours, too long for a reasonable commute for workers or students.

Cloverdale's economic growth has suffered greatly as a result of the Covid Pandemic. The anticipation of the SMART extension to Cloverdale will stimulate much needed development for our community.

Dropping Cloverdale from the 2050 SMART Plans is not acceptable and is a betrayal of trust. Residents of Cloverdale and the surrounding areas have been paying the same sales taxes which support this project as the residents to our south who are already benefitting from SMART.

Residents of our community have been big supporters of SMART. The only folks who have disapproved are residents who are anti-tax, anti-transit, and who have predicted that, while they would be taxed, SMART would never be built to Cloverdale in their

lifetimes. Wow! Please don't make them right and the rest of us stupid. What a horrible lesson that would be.

Thank you for your important consideration.

Sincerely,

Cloverdale Indivisible Steering Committee

Pam Browning, Brooke Green, Virginia Greenwald, and Vicky Groom