

From: [David Kelley](#)
To: [Plan BayArea Info](#)
Cc: [Todd Lands](#); [Kevin Thompson](#); [Derrick Montanye](#); [Melanie Bagby](#); ecumins@sonomamarintrain.org
Subject: City of Cloverdale's Support for the Plan Bay Area 2050 Amendment – SMART Rail Extension to Healdsburg
Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 12:55:02 PM
Attachments: [Cloverdale SMART Plan Bay Area Amendment August 2024 Support Letter.pdf](#)

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External Email

Dear Commissioner Pedroza and Members of the MTC,

On behalf of the City of Cloverdale, I am pleased to submit the attached letter signed by Mayor Todd Lands, expressing our strong support for the proposed amendment to Plan Bay Area 2050. This amendment will extend the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) passenger rail to Healdsburg, with a vision for further expansion to Cloverdale.

The extension is critical to advancing our shared goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving regional connectivity, and enhancing access to housing and economic opportunities for disadvantaged communities.

Please feel free to contact me if any further information or clarifications are needed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Attachment: City of Cloverdale Support Letter for Plan Bay Area 2050 Amendment – SMART Rail Extension to Healdsburg

Best regards,
David Kelley
City of Cloverdale

David J. Kelley | City Manager
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August 29, 2024

Commissioner Alfredo Pedroza, Chair
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Plan Bay Area 2050 Amendment – City of Cloverdale Support

Dear Chair Pedroza,

On behalf of the City of Cloverdale, we are pleased to support the pending amendment to Plan Bay Area 2050 for the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART) expansion north with the next step of connecting Healdsburg to the SMART Rail and Pathway network. The City of Cloverdale would like to take this opportunity to urge you to support for amending Plan Bay Area 2050 to include completing the entire SMART Rail and Pathway network to Cloverdale.

The City of Cloverdale has long been a proponent of the return of freight and passenger rail services to our rural, agricultural and hard-working community. Cloverdale was originally established and developed around rail service and believes the future of California depends on a network of rail to support equitable access to housing and opportunity, economic vitality, lowering of greenhouse gas emissions and protection of our climate. Cloverdale has worked hard to support the Federal, State and Regional goals to reduce emissions, particularly from transportation, including developing a transit-oriented district around the future SMART Station and our Downtown (Cloverdale SMART Station Area/Downtown Plan, July 2010)..

Our rural community is also committed to helping recover from the recent years of devastating wildfires and housing loss by supporting those who have been and will continue to be displaced. We work hard to support infill housing opportunities to address our ongoing housing shortage crisis. Many in the development community have conveyed their interest in creating more housing in Cloverdale, but only if SMART's services are extended further towards our city. Our first 75 affordable housing units are being constructed today in our "transit-oriented development" zone, with no train to support the community's investment in infrastructure improvements.

Our community is facing difficult economic conditions and our voters are being asked to pass a sales tax this fall supporting basic community services. We recognize our future will continue to be filled with challenges such as creating more housing, ensuring ample broadband access, providing wildfire evacuation options, sourcing sufficient water and providing transportation options that allow our economy to thrive and people to have access to opportunity in a way that has minimal environmental impact. Extending SMART to our community can help us meet those challenges and create more high-quality transit access connections for California's North Coast.

Cloverdale has Federal designation as a historically disadvantaged community for low income and low educational attainment, which could be solved by high quality, affordable rail access to economic and educational opportunities. The State of California is planning to create an intercity-bus hub at the Cloverdale SMART station to improve connectivity for the North Coast of California, including Mendocino County and others that have been declared federal Areas of Persistent Poverty. North Sonoma County from Healdsburg to the Mendocino County line, twenty miles, has rural designation, making Cloverdale to Healdsburg rail a unique opportunity for rural federal rail investment, if SMART's Cloverdale extension is included in the regional transportation plan.

We thank you for your consideration of the Plan Bay Area amendment to match our voters' commitment to a healthier transportation future by including the entire SMART Rail and Pathway network to Cloverdale in Play Bay Area 2050.

Sincerely,

Todd Lands
Mayor

c:

Honorable Jared Huffman, US Congressman

Mike McQuire, Senate President Pro Tempore

James Woods, Assembly Speaker pro Tempore, District 2

Cloverdale City Council

James R. Cameron, Executive Director Sonoma County Transportation Authority