



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA
An Inter-League Organization of the San Francisco Bay Area



July 22, 2008

Dumbarton Rail Corridor
Policy Committee
Palo Alto City Hall

Re: Dumbarton Rail Corridor Project – Environmental Review and Funding

Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area supports an interconnected, multi-modal, convenient, and cost-effective regional transportation system designed to reduce vehicle miles traveled and single-occupancy vehicle use. Our comments today are made after we have consulted with the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, Union City, the LWV of South San Mateo County and the LWV of Palo Alto. This statement reflects agreement among the group.

We support the kind of project that Dumbarton Rail Corridor Project is trying to be: a connection between the number of existing north-south transportation systems, relieving traffic on the Dumbarton Bridge, particularly commutes from the East Bay to the Peninsula and return, and use of an existing rail line and bridge. LWVBA strongly supported the passage of Regional Measure 2, which included this project as one to be funded with the increase in bridge tolls.

With respect to the proposed loan or temporary transfer of \$91 million from this project to the extension of BART to Warm Springs, we have two concerns:

- We urge that this action not impede the planning and environmental evaluation of the Dumbarton Rail Corridor Project. Specifically, issues such as the interface with other rail systems (particularly freight in the East Bay), noise issues, the potential for phasing of the project, and other neighborhood impacts need to be fully evaluated. Once the EIR is certified in 2009, there will be a clearer picture of the project.
- We note that the timing of the potential transfer or loan also needs to be viewed within the context of the potential outcome of ballot measures on the November 2008 ballot. The passage (or failure) of the High Speed Rail Bond and the Santa Clara County transportation tax will affect the future of transportation systems in the South Bay and Peninsula..

In any event, we want to make sure that any funding decision does not have a negative effect on the Dumbarton Rail Project moving forward.

Sincerely,

Marion Taylor
Vice-President, Program/Action

1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612
www.lwvbayarea.org