CCHO
COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY HOUSING ORGANIZATIONS

February 27, 2024

Dear Chair Melgar and Supervisors

I am writing on behalf of the Council of Community Housing Organizations to express support for the Potrero Yard Modernization Project. The reimagined Potrero Yard would address much-needed transportation infrastructure improvements that support long-term resilient, safe, and efficient Muni operations of an all-electric bus fleet. Additionally, the century-old bus yard would be enhanced with homes for low- to moderate-income households - the nation's first known joint development of a bus maintenance facility with housing.

The project developer team, Potrero Neighborhood Collective (PNC), includes both a national transportation developer, Plenary Americas, and local veteran community organizations: Mission Economic Development Agency, Young Community Developers, and Tabernacle Community Development Corporation. PNC's commitment to innovation and community inclusion is evidenced by its proposed design and program including the following priorities:

- Safe, Reliable, and Improved Munl Service with a bus yard that can house up to 213 electric trolleybuses (a 54% increase to the current fleet) and modern equipment to maintain the fleet and keep buses moving, and meet transit riders' needs.
- Employee Wellness with a seismically safe modernized bus yard provides natural light, outdoor spaces, and recreation spaces for Muni employees.
- Maximizing Housing Units and Affordability by creating safe and stable homes for households that might otherwise be priced out of the City including working families, City employees, and those on a fixed income.
- Improving Safety for Bicyclists and Pedestrians by enhancing the City's existing 17th Street bikeway along the project site with proposed Class IV bike lanes from Bryant Street to Hampshire Street, including concrete barriers and wider lanes where possible, as well as upgrading sidewalks and crossings. These improvements are known to support bicyclist, pedestrian, and vehicular safety in line with the City's Vision Zero efforts.
- New Commercial Spaces that Activate the streets and include a public restroom, a community-requested public benefit.
- Approach to Local Economic Inclusion that Prioritizes Southeast Corridor Communities through Local Business Enterprises (LBE) participation and Local Hire. This is achieved through committed proactive outreach to LBEs and residents of Southeast San Francisco, oversight of future selected general contractors, and transparent reporting.
- Culturally relevant public art that celebrates the people, values, history and diverse culture of the Potrero Hill and Mission neighborhoods while also highlighting SFMTA's goal to provide reliable, safe, and affordable transportation for all.

I am urging you to support the Potrero Yard Modernization Project as we need a new bus yard that serves to improve transit reliability while also providing public benefits, including new housing on City-owned land to address the City's dire need for affordable housing. Thank you for your ongoing advocacy for public transit.

I look forward to your continued leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

John Avalos

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