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Subject: Plan 2040

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Bay Area Transportation Working Group (BATWG)

Dear Honorable Mayor Dutra-Vernaci and Honorable Members of the City Council:

BATWG is a 501c3 California non-profit corporation. We are all volunteers, dedicated to restoring a more balanced transportation system to the Bay Area. Collectively we have a vast amount of experience in transportation, housing and land use development.

From a review of your Plan 2040 it appears that the East West Connector is still in Union City's program. We urge you to rethink this.

Union City will soon have a much better BART connection to the South Bay than at present. In the works is a further extension all the way through downtown San Jose and on into Santa Clara. This will give north-south travelers some important new options.

A shuttle train across a restored or rebuilt Dumbarton rail bridge has strong support on both sides of the Bay. That is because a passenger rail connection between the Redwood City Caltrain Station and the Union City BART station would at last give east-west travelers a way of quickly and reliability getting across the Dumbarton Straits without getting bogged down in Dumbarton Highway Bridge or I-237 traffic.

It is likely that the proposed East West Connector and the Dumbarton rail shuttle would turn out to be mutually exclusive. In other words, given the scarcity of transportation funding, Union City has a choice of either a short freeway through what should become an urban park or the rail service but probably not both.

And finally, It appears from Union City 2040 that Union City continues to fail to do enough to reduce U.C.'s greenhouse gas emissions. The only way of convincing people to drive less is to provide them with attractive alternatives. Together the BART extension and Dumbarton rail project would achieve this objective.

It is our considered opinion is that a fast and reliable passenger rail service across the Dumbarton Straits would bring far greater transportation benefits to Union City than would a short strip of highway.

Sincerely,

Gerald Cauthen P.E.

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