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**TJPA Executive Director Ayerdi-Kaplan, Regional Transit Leaders Rally
During National Day of Transportation Advocacy**

Ayerdi-Kaplan and others call for sustained investment in America's critical transportation infrastructure during "Stand Up for Transportation" Event

San Francisco, Calif. (April 9, 2015) – Transbay Joint Powers Authority Executive Director Maria Ayerdi-Kaplan joined regional transit leaders at the Transbay Temporary Terminal in a day of advocacy for continued investment in America's transportation infrastructure. This "Stand Up for Transportation" event was one of many held across the nation on April 9 as Congress prepares for an extension of a major transportation funding bill known as MAP-21.

In her remarks, Executive Director Ayerdi-Kaplan pointed to the Transbay Transit Center project, which has received significant federal funding, as an example of the benefits generated by serious investment in transportation infrastructure.

She explained that the Transbay Transit Center, on schedule to open in late 2017, is already having a substantial and positive economic impact.

"To date, the project has provided nearly 1.4 million hours of trade work, and employed over 9,000 people in construction-related jobs in 20 states across the country," said Ayerdi-Kaplan. "Additionally, the project has served as the catalyst for the emerging Transbay neighborhood. Currently, 19 buildings, both commercial and residential, are planned or under construction in the area immediately surrounding the Transit Center."

With the example of the Transbay Transit Center as a backdrop, many other regional transit leaders also expressed their support for a sustained long-term transportation funding bill, including Metropolitan Transportation Commission Chair and Santa Clara Valley Supervisor Dan Cortese, California High-Speed Rail CEO Jeff Morales, Caltrans District General Manager Bijan Sartipi, Bay Area Rapid Transit Director Nick Josefowitz, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Director Ed Reiskin, Caltrain General Manager Jim Hartnett, Contra Costa Transportation Authority Executive Director Randall Iwasaki, Livermore-Amadore Valley Transit Authority Executive Director Michael Tree, representatives from the Valley Transit Authority, the Golden Gate Transit Authority, and others.

Noting that 13 regional organizations have joined the more than 260 organizations involved in the nationwide “Stand Up for Transportation” effort, Ayerdi-Kaplan expressed pride that the Bay Area’s transportation stakeholders are advocating on this issue.

“We are proud to join our regional transit partners to remind Washington DC that major public infrastructure investments like the Transbay Transit Center only happen when there is a strong, sustainable, long-term federal funding commitment.”

When finished, the multimodal Transbay Transit Center will connect 11 transit systems including California high-speed rail, making transportation more sustainable and efficient among 8 Bay Area counties and, eventually, Southern California.

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The Transbay Transit Center, known as the “Grand Central Station of the West,” is a revolutionary transportation facility that will transform the South of Market neighborhood into the new heart of downtown. The Transit Center will connect eight Bay Area counties and 11 transit systems, including future High Speed Rail. The Transbay Transit Center Phase 1 is scheduled to open in late 2017. To learn more about the project, please visit our website at www.TransbayCenter.org.

The Transbay Transit Center project is made possible in part by the U.S. Department of Transportation, State of California, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Proposition K Sales Tax dollars provided by the San Francisco County Transportation Authority, City and County of San Francisco, San Francisco Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure, San Mateo County Transportation Authority and AC Transit.