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Clerk of the Napa Superior Court
By: C. Brennan
Deputy

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Napa Superior Court
Court Executive Office

July 19, 2017

The Honorable Boessenecker
Superior Court of California
County of Napa
825 Brown Street
Napa, CA 94559

RE: Response to the Grand Jury 2016-17 Final Report titled Napa Valley Transportation Agency Vision 2040 Plan – County Traffic Problems Need Comprehensive Plan with Measurable Results

Dear Judge Boessenecker:

The Grand Jury report referenced above requests three separate responses. This response is specific to the Napa Valley Transportation Authority's (NVTA) Board of Directors. The NVTA Executive Director's and County Board of Supervisor's response will be sent separately.

The NVTA board appreciates the efforts undertaken by the Grand Jury and the work it does on behalf of the citizens of Napa County. We further acknowledge that its responsibilities are challenging and appreciate that the members of the Grand Jury are dedicated to completing a comprehensive review of NVTA's work product and that the Grand Jury is committed to developing an honest and thorough evaluation to ensure Napa's communities are being well served.

Findings:

Finding 1 A majority of interviewees view the Vision 2040 Report's proposed highway improvement lists, bike lanes, and new buses as insufficient to solve Napa County's traffic congestion problem.

RESPONSE: The NVTA Board of Directors neither agrees nor disagrees with this finding and concurs with the NVTA Executive Director's July 19, 2017, letter responding to the Grand Jury report.

Finding 2 No quantifiable measurements are in place for the Board or the public to assess Napa County congestion management goals, determine results on a timeline, or evaluate the efficacy of NVTA budgets and spending.

RESPONSE: The NVTA Board agrees with this finding in part. NVTA staff works with Napa Valley's jurisdictions to develop long range project and program lists that meet NVTA Board established goals in the Vision 2040 plan. Projects approved for funding by the NVTA board are selected from these lists. The NVTA board agrees that some of the Vision 2040 goals are difficult to quantify.

Finding 3 The NVTA does an inadequate public relations job of educating the community of all their responsibilities, activities and progress toward achieving goals.

RESPONSE: The NVTA Board of Directors agrees with this finding in part. The NVTA Board of Directors agrees with the NVTA Executive Director's July 19, 2017, letter responding to the Grand Jury report. The Board of Directors recently authorized a new full time Public Information Officer position to ramp up the agency's public communications efforts. The Board also acknowledges the recent work completed by NVTA staff in this area, but recognizes that outreach efforts need to be sustained and innovative communication techniques be employed to ensure that NVTA is clearly communicating to all members of Napa Valley's communities.

Finding 4 The NVTA needs to better utilize data and travel demand software to (a) project future transportation conditions, (b) forecast the need for and the potential effectiveness of transportation projects and infrastructure improvements, and (c) identify the impact of land use development.

RESPONSE: The NVTA Board of Directors neither agrees nor disagrees with this finding. The NVTA Board of Directors believes that the discretion for determining an approach to travel demand is highly technical and defers to the expertise of NVTA staff members in coordination with consultants and Napa Valley jurisdictions' transportation professionals. The Board of Directors has approved funding for various modeling activities and is supportive of the Executive Director's approach to balancing outcomes with the agency's limited resources. The Board further encourages staff to collaborate with other transportation agencies to ensure the agency is up to date on best practices in a number of areas, including travel demand modeling practices.

Finding 5 The most salient suggested actions in V2040 were made by the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Napa County Farm Bureau.

RESPONSE: The NVTA Board of Directors neither agrees nor disagrees with this finding. The NVTA Board takes comments from NVTA committees and members of the public very seriously and works closely with staff to incorporate comments into NVTA's plans and practices.

Finding 6 The NVTA is missing opportunities to promote Napa County as a test market for transportation technology companies investing in new research and development.

RESPONSE: The NVTA Board of Directors neither agrees nor disagrees. The NVTA has no jurisdiction over the County's streets, roads, and highways. We encourage

