



City of Santa Clara

The Center of What's Possible

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November 28, 2017

Chair Jeannie Bruins
Valley Transportation Authority
3331 North First Street
San Jose, California 95134

Dear Chair Bruins,

The purpose of this letter is to indicate to you and the rest of the VTA Board of Directors my interest in being considered for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board for 2018. I believe I have the combination of experience, leadership qualities, and passion to ensure that the people of Santa Clara County get the transportation solutions they deserve and need to improve our quality of life.

I began working on transportation issues with VTA shortly after my election to the Santa Clara City Council when I joined the Policy Advisory Committee in January 2013; however, I had been a VTA rider during various periods of my working career. I joined the VTA board in March 2016 and since have served on the Congestion Management Program and Planning Committee (Chair during 2017), Governance and Audit Committee, El Camino Rapid Transit Policy Advisory Board, BART Silicon Valley Ad Hoc Committee, and the Capital Projects Oversight Committee. Along with Board Member Peralez, I represent Santa Clara County and VTA on the governing board of the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority.

In addition, I have worked to get to know better VTA's employees and organization by participating in employee forums and recognition events and speaking at VTA workshops and commemorations such as Women's Equality and Veteran's Day.

My governance experience also includes being an elected member of the Santa Clara Unified School District Board of Trustees, where I worked on regional and state education issues as an active member of the Santa Clara County School Boards Association, serving as president, and the California School Boards Association, serving as a member of the statewide delegate assembly. I also serve on the regional governing bodies of the Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority and Northern California Power Agency, where I am the Chair of the Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee and a member of the Executive Committee. At NCPA, our members include very small through medium-sized cities and public agencies such as BART and the Port of Oakland. Together we work to deliver services not just to our members, but to utility co-operatives and community choice aggregators that are striving to provide better electric service to their communities. I advocate at the state and national levels not just for my city, or NCPA members, but for communities across the United States that are frequently very different from my own with different needs.

I am confident that my experience and conviction will help me serve all the people and communities of Santa Clara County and the mission of VTA if the Board of Directors should select me as Vice-Chair for 2018. Together we must innovate and implement the transportation solutions our community is looking to us to provide. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Teresa O'Neill
Council Member