



December 11, 2020

Chad Benson
MSHDA Acting Director of Development

Dear Mr. Benson,

I'm writing to express the Bay Area Transportation Authority's support for the QAP changes recommended by Housing North in their December 1, 2020 letter.

As a transit authority, we witness the housing affordability struggles daily in our region. Transportation for the essential workforce has become even more critical and heightened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Creating opportunities for frontline staff to live within proximity to transit and multi-modal opportunities is key for a thriving region of the future. A recent study has shown that more than 50% of the residents in our five-county area are considered "overburdened" in housing and transportation costs. These overburdened costs trickle down to the transit authority in a variety of ways, one being a struggle to find qualified applicants to continue to deliver transportation services in the Grand Traverse and Leelanau County region.

The changes Housing North has recommended will make it easier to create housing options for all people in our community and will begin to help rectify the housing crisis in rural communities like ours.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Kelly Dunham
Executive Director
Bay Area Transportation Authority

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