

TO: The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Members

FROM: Public Policy Council Chair and Chair of the Board

SUBJECT: VIA Metropolitan Transit funding support for

Keep San Antonio Moving Plan and Advanced Rapid Transit (ART) Projects



RECOMMENDATION:

The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Council adopts the following position statement as policy:

STATEMENT:

The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce supports funding for VIA Metropolitan Transit's *Keep San Antonio Moving* initiative. VIA's capital investments in the region will create jobs, improve traffic flow and safety for motorists and pedestrians in key corridors. Additionally, this plan supports a robust public transit network that services our growing economy and helps to mitigate the increase in traffic congestion – which is objectively harmful to economic growth.

BACKGROUND:

In November 2020, San Antonio voters overwhelmingly approved the redirection of a 1/8th-cent sales tax to fund Keep San Antonio Moving capital investments and operational expenses to provide better transit services. Using robust input provided by residents, businesses, civic groups, faith-based organizations, public institutions and other diverse stakeholders, VIA continually refined plans to deliver faster, safer, more efficient, and reliable public transportation services, culminating in the development of the Keep San Antonio Moving plan. That plan laid out key initiatives that would improve public transportation in the San Antonio area, including increasing frequency in bus service across the network, developing the region's first Advanced Rapid Transit service, and delivering unique on-demand transit options such as VIA Link, a rideshare service at public transit prices, using technology.

REASONS TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED RATE INCREASE:

- Services will better connect people to the goods and services that improve their quality of life, and serve as a conduit to opportunity, helping to strengthen the symbiotic relationship between education, employers, and the workforce.
- VIA's capital investments in the region will create jobs, improve traffic flow and safety for motorists and pedestrians in key corridors.
- VIA's Advanced Rapid Transit projects, known as the Green Line and Silver Line, will bring hundreds of millions of dollars of investment from the federal government in the region.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce supports VIA Metropolitan Transit's *Keep San Antonio Moving* initiative as an important way to improve access to opportunity for residents and our business community.