



March 9, 2021

Brian Kelly, Chief Executive Officer
California High-Speed Rail Authority
770 L Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear CEO Kelly,

We are pleased to see the progress that the California High-Speed Rail Authority has made over the past year in advancing High-Speed Rail in the San Joaquin Valley, as well as through the Revised Draft 2020 Business Plan. We strongly support high-speed rail and view it as an integral part of a multi-pronged effort to address significant challenges faced by our cities and the state as a whole.

As we recently wrote to Secretary Buttigieg, connecting the Central Valley to Silicon Valley via high-speed rail represents a generational opportunity. By crossing the Coast Range, connecting the San Joaquin Valley to the Silicon Valley and north to San Francisco, the High-Speed Rail project would become a “train to somewhere.” This would be transformative for the state. Cities like Bakersfield, Merced and Fresno would enjoy new investment and a critical connection to thousands of high-paying jobs in the Bay Area, while San Francisco and San José would gain a low-carbon solution to the jobs-housing imbalance.

On a larger scale, when high-speed rail becomes a reality in California – whisking people from San Francisco and San Jose to Los Angeles and San Diego and other large Golden State cities – it will provide proof of concept that this technology can be applied anywhere. That would benefit the climate, take cars off the road and connect our nation as we look to a more prosperous future for all Americans.

In the immediate term, as Congress debates federal infrastructure investment, we have a once in a decade opportunity to bring regional, state and federal funding together. The Bay Area recently included regional funding for high-speed rail in Plan Bay Area 2050 – the first region in California to take this step. We ask the Authority to join with us to secure state and federal funding for a holistic program of projects built upon and integrated with the high-speed rail system. With high-speed rail as the backbone, this program would include our major rail hubs (San José’s Diridon Integrated Station, San Francisco’s Downtown Extension and Fresno’s HSR

Station District) and critical grade separation projects, extend electrified Caltrain service to Gilroy, and connect to the major cities of the San Joaquin Valley with electrified high-speed trains.

Over the past three years, our cities, regional transit and rail operators, and the High-Speed Rail Authority have worked together to advance an integrated world-class rail system throughout the greater Northern California mega-region. The construction and operation of high-speed rail between San Francisco and Bakersfield is a critical component of all our cities' plans for future transportation, sustainability, and equitable development. We look forward to playing an active role to help high-speed rail become a reality.

Sincerely,



Sam Liccardo
Mayor
City of San José



London Breed
Mayor
City of San Francisco



Jerry Dyer
Mayor
City of Fresno



Matthew Serratto
Mayor
City of Merced