



March 3, 2021

Assembly Transportation Committee
1020 N Street Room 112
Sacramento, California 95814

Budget Subcommittee 3
Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy, and Transportation
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for California High Speed Rail

Dear Assembly Transportation Committee and Budget Subcommittee 3,

The Bay Area Council supports the direction laid out in the California High Speed Rail Authority's Revised Draft 2020 Business Plan for how to advance implementation of the high-speed rail system. The current proposal calls for completion of the 119 miles under active construction in the Central Valley, extension to 171 miles of electrified rail connecting Merced, Fresno, and Bakersfield as an interim operating segment as the rest of the project is completed. Advancing environmental clearance and follow-on pre-construction steps across the State in advance of pursuing additional funding for construction. We stand by the Authority's ask to the Legislature to appropriate the remaining \$4 billion in Proposition 1A funds to complete construction and electrify the corridor in the Central Valley later this year.

Now is the time to invest in our region to create jobs and promote economic activity. Completing construction in the Central Valley and getting electrified service running has been extensively reviewed and shown to be the best use of the investment with the ability to increase ridership, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollution in areas with the worst air quality in the country, and demonstrate the value that high-speed rail can bring to the traveling public.

Investment in high-speed rail has generated over \$10 billion in economic activity providing direct benefits to disadvantaged communities in the Central Valley which have seen over half of that investment to date. Please let me know if you have any questions and thank you for hearing our support for the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gwen Litvak', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gwen Litvak
Senior Vice President, Public Policy