

San José Diridon Station Joint Policy Advisory Board

Raul Peralez, *City of San José (Chair)*
Cindy Chavez, *Santa Clara VTA*
Charles Stone, *Caltrain*
Jim Ghielmetti, *CHSRA*

Dev Davis, *City of San José (Vice Chair)*
Sam Liccardo, *MTC*
Robert Raburn, *BART*
Rod Diridon Sr., *Ex-Officio Member*

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Laura Friedman
Chair, *Assembly Transportation Committee*
102 N Street, Room 112
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Richard Bloom
Chair, *Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3 on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy, and Transportation*
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for California High-Speed Rail Authority Revised Draft 2020 Business Plan

Dear Chair Friedman and Chair Bloom:

The members of the San José Diridon Station Joint Policy Advisory Board support the appropriation of the remaining \$4 billion in Proposition 1A funds to complete construction and electrify the corridor in the Central Valley and advance the environmental clearance and pre-construction stages necessary to connect the Central Valley to Silicon Valley. These next steps build on the investment of more than \$700 million for the Caltrain Electrification project and “bookend” high-speed rail infrastructure. The appropriation of these funds will support a key regional and state priorities including enhancing connections to major job centers in Silicon Valley and the Bay Area to the electrified rail “spine” and supporting the Authority’s Business Plan. Bringing high-speed rail to Diridon Station will improve connections to a dozen different public and private rail and bus systems that converge at that transit hub- a fact reflected in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s Plan Bay Area 2050 Blueprint which prioritizes \$7.1 billion in future regional funding to support High Speed Rail and associated Caltrain corridor improvements.

Looking forward, as Congress debates federal infrastructure investment, we also recognize the once in a decade opportunity to bring regional, state and federal funding together. We

ask the Authority to join with the Bay Area to leverage our regional funding and 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 and San Francisco's Downtown Extension) 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.

Sincerely,



Raul Peralez

*Chair, San José Diridon Station Joint Policy Advisory Board
Councilmember, City of San José - District 3*

CC:

Members, Assembly Transportation Committee

Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3 on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy, & Transportation

Brian Kelly, Chief Executive Officer, California High-Speed Rail Authority

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Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority