

March 12, 2020

Chairman Jim Frazier
Assembly Transportation Committee
1020 N Street, Rm 112
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Frazier,

I am writing to express the City of San José's strong support of Governor Newsom's plan to deliver the California High-Speed Rail Project. The development of High Speed Rail (HSR) across the State, and through Silicon Valley, is essential for our regional and local efforts to improve and connect the passenger rail network in the Bay Area with the economic centers of the Central Valley and Southern California. The City of San José continues to support the Authority's Silicon Valley to Central Valley phased approach to an integrated rail system that improves intercity, regional, and local train service. The High-Speed Rail Authority's plan to build out the Merced to Bakersfield spine is the next logical building block towards a Silicon Valley to Central Valley system. This plan ensures that the project is delivered as quickly and efficiently as possible while realizing the mobility, environmental and economic benefits that interim operations of fully electrified high-speed rail in the Central Valley will bring to California.

With 350 miles of electrified high-speed rail under development, California continues to demonstrate its leadership and long-term vision for a better future. The High-Speed Rail Authority's policy recommendations, as laid out in the Draft 2020 Business Plan, will expand the project in the Central Valley to 171-miles of electric high-speed rail while maintaining investments that will provide greater connectivity and more reliable operations for the Valley's other important rail and bus services, including reducing the travel time between San José, Oakland, Sacramento, and Bakersfield by up to 100 minutes. These new efficiencies will get more pollution emitting cars off our congested roads and highways and onto public transit, which will improve the air quality of communities with some of the nation's highest levels of pollutants.

The Merced to Bakersfield spine in the Central Valley is an integral part of the system that will expand to both Northern and Southern California to connect the entire State. Finishing the segment in the Central Valley and beginning an interim operation will allow the technology to be demonstrated as HSR works on the next construction segments that will extend it to San José Diridon Station the hub for Caltrain, Capitol Corridor and ACE services throughout Northern California. The full funding of the Silicon Valley to Central Valley system should remain the highest priority for the Legislature when allocating funds to the High Speed Rail and the Statewide rail network.

The path proposed in the California High-Speed Rail Authority's Draft 2020 Business Plan represents the quickest and most cost-efficient path towards realizing the significant benefits that a fast, clean, electrified high-speed rail service holds for Californians, and we look forward to continuing to work towards making that vision a reality. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sam Liccardo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "L".

Sam Liccardo
Mayor
City of San José