



April 4, 2022

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

**Subject: Request for Inclusion of Valley Link in the California High-Speed Rail Authority's 2022 Business Plan**

Dear Mr. Kelly,

On behalf of the Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group (ITV), I am writing to request the inclusion of the Valley Link rail project in the California High-Speed Rail Authority's (CHSRA) 2022 Business Plan. This will substantially improve intercity passenger rail service while also providing high-speed rail connectivity to the Bay Area at the earliest date possible.

ITV is led by business and civic leaders, research labs, educational institutions in the Tri-Valley, one of the fastest growing and economically robust regions in the state of California. According to the Bay Area Council's Economic Institute in the "Tri-Valley Rising", the Tri-Valley has a \$42 billion GDP with over 450 high-tech companies. The Tri-Valley is at the geographic epicenter of the Northern California Mega-Region by connecting the Bay Area and Central Valley through the Altamont Corridor, and is situated in the second largest county in Northern California (Alameda) with 1.67 million residents. As such, any planning around major rail improvements in California should keep the Tri-Valley and the East Bay at the forefront.

To that end, **ITV respectfully requests that the 42 mile, 7-station Valley Link Project be clearly identified in the CHSRA 2022 Business Plan, as it is a vital and cost-effective link which can unlock many of the transformative economic and environmental benefits of the emerging high-speed rail system.** Valley Link is already identified in the State Rail Plan and is slated for Phase 1 of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Plan Bay Area 2050. In addition, Valley Link's alignment with vital State Rail improvements north of Merced will leverage both existing and planned rail infrastructure for near-term Bay Area connectivity.

At its intermodal North Lathrop hub, Valley Link will connect with the San Joaquin to provide service throughout the Central Valley while also linking with Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) to provide all day service on BART frequencies during peak periods to the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station. This will serve

as a catalyst for fast and frequent service to employment centers in San Francisco, Silicon Valley, and the East Bay. Thus, Valley Link will provide critical statewide rail connectivity closing a key gap between BART and the state rail system in the Central Valley — linking nearly 500 miles of commuter and intercity rail with more than 130 stations throughout the Northern California Megaregion.

Consistent with the State Rail Plan and the CHSRA Draft 2022 Business Plan, Valley Link will expand equitable access by providing the Bay Area and communities in San Joaquin County with integrated connectivity to the Merced – Bakersfield High-Speed Rail Interim Operating Segment and Sacramento through the existing ACE and future Valley Rail passenger rail services. Valley Link will not only provide the Bay Area with an early connection to the high-speed rail system, but it also provides substantial benefit to the entire Northern California Mega-Region. Valley Link serves communities and households in the Northern San Joaquin Valley with some of our state’s highest poverty rates. It links our Northern California Megaregion’s workforce to affordable housing, provides opportunities for compact transit-oriented development and is projected to have a significant impact on the reduction of VMT and GHG emissions.

ITV specifically would ask that CHSRA include the Valley Link rail project in the final 2022 Business Plan as follows:

- Add Valley Link to Exhibit 2.0: Central Valley Connectivity Map as the line “To Dublin/Pleasanton” from the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) line between Merced and Sacramento with the addition of another line “To San Jose” for ACE.
- Add a bullet on page 10, “Central Valley Connectivity” to specifying “Valley Link to Dublin/Pleasanton” and leave the existing bullet as “Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) to San Jose and a planned future connection to Sacramento.”
- Add Valley Link to Exhibit 2.1: Northern California Bay Area Connectivity Map as a direct connection to Dublin/Pleasanton BART station with a line extending east to the City of Lathrop.

**In summary, Valley Link can make CHSRA much more financially viable with its earlier connection to Silicon Valley, San Francisco, and the East Bay.** It leverages existing and planned improvements, provides near-term, has frequent headways, provides significant environmental benefits, and assures equitable access and economic opportunity for the entire Northern California Mega-Region.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Best Regards,



Lynn Naylor  
CEO