



TRANSBAY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Adam Van de Water • Executive Director

March 12, 2024

The Honorable Lori Wilson, Chair
Assembly Transportation Committee
1020 N Street, Room 112
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dave Cortese, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee
California State Capitol, Room 405
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support from the Transbay Joint Powers Authority for the California High-Speed Rail Authority's (CHSRA) Draft 2024 Business Plan

Dear Chairperson Wilson and Chairperson Cortese:

On behalf of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA), I want to take this opportunity to express our support for the CHSRA Draft 2024 Business Plan (Draft Plan).

The TJPA commends the CHSRA for your dedicated work on this Draft Plan and for continuing to advance this important statewide project. TJPA is pleased to support the CHSRA in delivering high-speed rail (HSR) service through The Portal to the multimodal Salesforce Transit Center (Center) in downtown San Francisco as the State's northern terminus of high-speed rail, ultimately connecting to ten transit systems in the Bay Area: AC Transit, BART, Caltrain, Golden Gate Transit, Muni, SamTrans, WestCAT Lynx, Amtrak, Paratransit, and Greyhound. Through this partnership with CHSRA, the Center will provide seamless connections among local, regional, and statewide transportation systems under one roof.

As you know, after over 20 years of planning, and nearly ten years of construction, the Center has resulted in a thriving transit hub with 15,000 new neighborhood residents – and the State's support, as well as the partnership with the CHSRA, has been instrumental. This partnership between CHSRA and TJPA continues to also be realized at the regional level, with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) prioritizing funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) for both high-speed rail and The Portal (also known as the Downtown Rail Extension) project to the Center. The delivery of high-speed rail to the Center will be a transformational project of regional, state, and national significance.

The Portal has gained significant momentum since the project was accepted into the Federal Transit Administration's Project Development phase of the Capital Investment Grants New Starts program in December 2021. We have secured \$60 million in funding from the State's Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program. We received a medium-high rating last month (one of only eight projects nationally in such an advanced state of readiness) and yesterday (March 11, 2024), we were included in President Biden's FY 2025 budget for a \$500 million allocation. The Portal is also working to be a regional model of collaboration and over the next year expects to complete all third-party agreements with the City and County of San Francisco, the operators, and our local and regional funders as well as an interagency governance agreement to guide delivery of The Portal on time and on budget.

The Draft 2024 Plan continues to set forth a strategic plan to get electrified high-speed trains running as soon as possible while continuing to advance the entire high-speed rail system from San Francisco to the Los Angeles Basin. As such, we strongly support the emphasis on advancing construction on the “bookend” projects, where CHSRA has committed funding in the Bay Area and the Los Angeles Basin.

We are at a critical juncture with The Portal; we need to complete our funding plan to continue to advance this project while progressing on important durable work to ensure its construction readiness. Our partnership with CHSRA is key to ensuring we progress in our efforts to bring The Portal into an advanced state of readiness. We look forward to continuing our close collaboration and joint efforts to secure funding for the \$550 million CHSRA capital contribution shown in the last four Business Plans, which will help HSR reach the northern terminus (The Portal) where an estimated one third of all statewide riders will originate or be destined.

Once again, we are pleased to see the Draft Plan reflect the valued partnership between the CHSRA and TJPA; and our joint commitment to extend high speed rail service to downtown San Francisco, creating world class infrastructure that offers unparalleled environmental, social, and economic benefits throughout the state.

Thank you for your ongoing work and dedication to expanding mobility options through the statewide HSR system.

Respectfully,



Adam Van de Water
Executive Director
Transbay Joint Powers Authority

cc: Governor Gavin Newsom
Mike McGuire, Senate President Pro Tem
Robert Rivas, Speaker of the Assembly
Scott Wiener, Senate Budget Chair
Jesse Gabriel, Assembly Budget Chair
TJPA Board of Directors
BusinessPlan2024@hsr.ca.gov