



**SAN
FRANCISCO
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

March 30, 2016

The Honorable Brian Kelly
Secretary of Transportation
Department of Transportation
Division of Mass Transportation, MS #39
P.O. Box 942874
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001

RE: TIRCP Application to Fund the Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project

Dear Secretary Kelly,

I am pleased to express strong support from the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce for Caltrain's application for the Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project (PCEP) to be funded through the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program.

Caltrain serves more than 60,000 daily passengers and transports residents, employees, and visitors to major destinations in Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Peninsula. This region is one of the nation's top economic engines, but traffic congestion is a growing problem and Caltrain provides a vital commute alternative that links thousands of employees to iconic organizations such as Stanford, Genentech, Facebook, and Google. Businesses located in the Caltrain corridor provide 14 percent of California's Gross Domestic Product, 52 percent of patents and 20 percent of tax revenue.

The impressive economic strength has been matched with dramatic population and ridership growth. In the last 10 years, Caltrain's ridership has more than doubled. Passengers are taking long commute trips in standing room only cars and riders that bring their bikes onboard are being turned away because the trains have run out of capacity. Caltrain has recently added used cars to lengthen the trains and relieve train congestion, but for the long-term, the system needs fundamental transformation to sustain its function and relevance.

The PCEP will transform Caltrain from a diesel-based service to a modernized rail system featuring high-performance electric trains that enhance capacity and allow the system to deliver cleaner, quieter, faster, more frequent service to the region and eventually equip the corridor to accommodate California's planned high-speed rail system. With an electrified system between San Francisco and San Jose that enables faster acceleration and shorter headways, Caltrain will be able to increase capacity and serve more riders at more stations.

Not only will the PCEP improve performance and increase ridership, it will provide substantial environmental benefits to the region's air quality by reducing diesel pollution, greenhouse gases, and removing cars from our congested roads. Based on information from the EIR, by 2040, an electrified Caltrain system will improve daily corridor air quality by over 97 percent, reduce annual greenhouse gases by over 176,000 metric tons of CO2 equivalent, and take 619,000 daily vehicle miles off the region's roadways.

To keep the Bay Area an attractive place to live and work, we must focus on planning and investing for our future. The PCEP is environmentally cleared, has significant local, state, and federal support and is ready to commence construction, as soon as the necessary funding support is secured.

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, a strong supporter of the state's Cap and Trade program, supports the PCEP as well as the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's Light Rail Modernization and Expansion Program, and encourages you to make a funding commitment to both these critically important transit projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Lazarus", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Lazarus
Senior Vice President of Public Policy
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce