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March 9, 2021

The Honorable Laura Friedman  
Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee  
1020 N Street, Rm 112  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Chair Friedman and Chair Bloom:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA), I am writing to support the California High Speed Rail Authority's (Authority) plan to deliver the California High-Speed Rail Project (Project) described in the recently updated *Revised Draft 2020 Business Plan*, released on February 9, 2021.

The TA is one of the 25 local county transportation agencies delivering voter-approved transportation sales tax measures to reduce commuter corridor congestion, make regional connections, enhance safety, and meet local mobility needs. As part of its mission, 16% of the TA's Measure A program is dedicated to Caltrain commuter rail service operations and capital improvements. The TA, along with other funding agencies, is a key partner in the funding and implementation of the current Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project. We understand the Authority will be a future operator on the Caltrain-owned corridor, and to that end we support the important planning and project delivery work the Authority will undertake.

Initiating electric, high-speed rail in the Central Valley as proposed in the plan will ensure that the project is delivered as quickly and efficiently as possible. These building blocks in the Central Valley are an integral part of the system that will expand to both Northern and Southern California and connect the entire state. Finishing the segment in the Central Valley and beginning an interim operation will allow the technology to be demonstrated as Caltrain works with the Authority to upgrade its corridor to accommodate increased regional travel demand and prepare for the introduction of high-speed service.

The TA is in agreement with the path proposed by the California High-Speed Rail Authority's *Revised Draft 2020 Business Plan* and look forward to working towards making that vision a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'April Chan', is written over a faint, larger blue signature that is partially obscured by the typed name below.

April Chan  
Chief Officer, Planning, Grants and the Transportation Authority

Cc: San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors