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March 5, 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:

I am writing to express the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board's (Caltrain) support for the plan to deliver the California High-Speed Rail Project described in the recently updated *Revised Draft 2020 Business Plan*, released on February 9, 2021.

Caltrain is the seventh largest and most efficiently run commuter rail system in the country. It spans 77.3 miles and 32 stations. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated disruption to transportation systems worldwide, there were 92 daily Caltrain trains with an average weekday ridership over 63,000.

Caltrain has a significant and long-standing relationship with the Authority. The Authority will be a future operator on the Caltrain-owned corridor and is an important partner in the funding and implementation of our ongoing Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project. The recently Caltrain Board-adopted *Long Range Service Vision for Caltrain* outlines our system's aspirations to grow while reaffirming our commitment to the Blended System and our communities, and our shared future with high-speed rail. To that end we look forward to the important planning work that must be embarked on between Caltrain and the Authority.

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 we work with the Authority to upgrade our own corridor to accommodate increased regional travel demand and prepare for the introduction of high-speed service.

We are 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. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 650-508-6221.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Hartnett", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jim Hartnett
Executive Director

Cc: Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board of Directors