



SPUR

San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

January 31, 2018

Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
1250 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070

Re: Caltrain Business Plan Final Business Strategy and Scope (Item 13)

Dear Joint Powers Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Caltrain Business Plan Final Business Strategy and Scope, a core component of the Joint Powers Board's initiative to create an integrated and seamless transit system for the three member counties, and for the Bay Area.

The proposals before you are the type of large-scope, robust effort that SPUR outlined in the 2017 *Caltrain Corridor Vision Plan*. We think that Caltrain can become the most innovative and highest quality rail service in the country.

- **We strongly support the staff-recommended Business Strategy Principles and Scope of Work as well as the proposed 2018-schedule for the Board updates and actions.**
- **We recommend that you to continue to invest properly in the Caltrain Business Plan analysis and process. The future of Caltrain and of the cities in this corridor depends on your focused efforts today.**
- **To achieve this we think it is critical the business plan look beyond the Bay Area or United States status quo to international models of operating railroads.**

SPUR has been a leading voice locally and regionally on transit through our convening initiatives and research. At a regional scale, SPUR's set of recommendations have included the development of reliable, frequent all-day rail service with enough capacity to meet demand and the creation of a coordinated and convenient transportation network. Locally, SPUR has been committed to engage the community, city officials and transit agencies in envisioning their station and station area as places where connections are seamless and development is embraced. As part of the local advocacy, "Next Stop: Diridon" Project has been a multi-year initiative in San Jose.

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The future of the region is transit-oriented; the development of seamless multimodal transit will be a catalyst for growth putting jobs, cultural uses, housing, parks and public space in the most accessible and sustainable locations of the region. SPUR supports investment in ridership and mobility benefits and believes that paying particular attention to the regional hubs, Transbay Transit Center and Diridon Station, will be one of the keys.

SPUR strongly recommends keeping a broad and long-term vision in every decision that will be made and is excited to be part of the vision-building process. This is critical to ensure that Caltrain Corridor fully plays its role in the success of the regional and state transportation network. We also applaud the Caltrain Business Plan Scope of Work for designing a clear timeline and milestones.

Along with the long-term vision, SPUR recommends to the Joint Powers Board to embrace the other transit agencies projects, at every scale, and to fully integrate their work in its vision. In order to do that, it is important that the Joint Powers Board acknowledges its key role in this broad transit system. SPUR is eager to offer its support and to be a resource as well as a facilitator for multi-agency collaboration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Caltrain Business Plan Final Business Strategy and Scope. SPUR is looking forward to work further with the Joint Powers Board, its Partner agencies and Caltrain's staff. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ratna Amin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "A".

Ratna Amin
SPUR Transportation Policy Director