

September 17, 2019

Re: Agenda Item #3 – Consider Concurring with the Staff Recommended Preferred Alternative for Inclusion in the San Jose to Merced Project Section Draft EIR/EIS

Dear Members of the California High-Speed Rail Authority Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed preferred alternative for the San Jose to Merced project section. Determining a preferred alternative is an important milestone for satisfying the requirements of the EIR/EIS which will allow for California High Speed Rail to begin further planning efforts for this crucial segment. SPUR recommends that the Board accept Staff's recommendation as laid out in the memorandum.

SPUR is a non-profit urban policy organization with offices in San Francisco, San Jose and Oakland with thousands of individual and business members in the Bay Area. SPUR is an early supporter of high-speed rail, having authored numerous reports and articles on how high-speed rail benefits California and how the Bay Area can make the most of high-speed rail.

To do so, it is critical for the project to integrate into the transit network and local communities in which it is linked. Two years ago, following a SPUR-sponsored study trip to high-speed rail stations in Europe, the CA High Speed Rail Authority joined the Valley Transportation Authority, Caltrain and the City of San Jose in a corporative agreement to create and deliver the Diridon Integrated Station Concept (DISC) Plan. The DISC plan must ensure that high-speed rail service is planned in a way to achieve HSR's ridership projections and infrastructure requirements.

Therefore, we recommend the ongoing involvement of CaHSRA staff in the DISC planning process and urge the CaHSRA to adopt the DISC rail alignment plan. It is imperative that the planning efforts underway today will enable the DISC partners to deliver on the world-class multimodal station design and service integration we aspire to achieve.

SPUR will continue to support the vision of California High Speed Rail and its strategy for better connecting the Central Valley to Silicon Valley. We look forward to our continued partnership to help ensure that high speed rail is delivered in the most seamless, integrated and community-responsive way.

Thank you,

Teresa Alvarado, San Jose Director
Member, CA High-Speed Rail Authority Community Working Group