

September 30, 2019

The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
12509 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070

Re: Caltrain Long-Range Service Vision Resolution (Item 11)

Dear Chair Gillett and the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board,

October 3rd is an historic day. This is the day when the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board will decide whether or not to invest in the next generation of transit on the Peninsula. Adopting the Long-Range Service Vision is the first step towards creating an outstanding rail system with frequent service unlike anything that exists in the Bay Area today.

The Peninsula and the Bay Area benefited tremendously from the good foresight and collaboration of San Mateo, Santa Clara and San Francisco Counties, who came together to purchase and run Caltrain in the 1980s. Now is the time to once again commit to a bigger vision for Caltrain.

SPUR strongly recommends that the Peninsula Joint Powers Board adopt the 2040 Caltrain Long-Range Service Vision. This is the vision that is so sorely needed to transform today's railroad into one that offers outstanding service, makes Caltrain competitive with driving, and supports transit-friendly communities.

SPUR encourages the Board to move forward with a process to develop an organizational vision that matches the scale of its service vision. We appreciate that the Long-Range Service Vision incorporates a transparent and deliberative process to evolve Caltrain's governance and organizational structure. Achieving the Long-Range Service Vision will take years of creativity, collaboration and commitment, along with significant, dedicated funding, new strategies for delivering projects and coordinating services, and finding new ways to bring value to Caltrain's customers.

We believe that this process would benefit from:

- **A commitment to shared goals** for Caltrain's future. These goals could include:
 - Reduce Caltrain's financial volatility.
 - Put the needs of riders first.

- Deliver frequent, coordinated and seamless service.
 - Serve a larger and more diverse ridership.
 - Create the backbone for a more integrated megaregional network.
 - Make Caltrain stations the anchors of great, transit-friendly neighborhoods.
 - Build capital projects quickly and cost-effectively.
- **Decision-support tools** to help the Board and the public understand the consequences of each decision. Translink, a transit coordinator in metro Vancouver, has a staff member whose responsibility it is to develop decision-support tools. These can include scenarios of the future, evaluation matrices, prototypes, and more.
 - **A neutral facilitator** who can design working sessions, help Board Members roll-up-their sleeves, and help groups work together to problem-solve and think creatively.
 - **A study trip** that helps get “under the hood” of international best practices and case studies. International precedents can help find solutions for complicated policy, organizational and governance questions.

Thank you for your bold leadership in supporting the Long-Range Service Vision. The timing could not be more urgent. With over half of the Bay Area’s greenhouse gas emissions coming from transportation, an outstanding rail system that is competitive with driving is exactly what is needed. This is the bold leadership people have been waiting for.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Laura Tolhoff', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Laura Tolhoff
Regional Planning Policy Director