

June 9, 2021

The Honorable Richard Bloom
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee
Resources and Transportation

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee 5
Corrections, Public Safety, Judiciary, Labor and Transportation

RE: Support for Governor Newsom's 2021 May Revise Budget

Dear Assemblymember Bloom and Senator Durazo,

SPUR strongly supports high-speed rail and the vision of a future California it helps to achieve. SPUR, the San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association, is a non-profit organization that works to create a more equitable, sustainable and prosperous San Francisco Bay Area through research, education and advocacy. We have been supporting, commenting on, and producing policy reports and papers on high-speed rail for decades and engage in numerous local projects that are part of high-speed rail's investments in Northern California.

SPUR strongly supports the Governor's inclusion of \$4.2 billion Proposition 1A high-speed rail bond funds in the May Budget Revise to complete high-speed rail construction in the Central Valley, advance work to launch service between Merced and Bakersfield, advance planning and project design for the entire project, and leverage potential federal funds. This funding is required to implement Merced-Fresno-Bakersfield Interim Service and to extend high-speed rail to San Francisco and Southern California in the future.

High-speed rail can help cities in California that are struggling economically by bringing new investments in newly accessible downtowns and creating jobs. The investments will create quality jobs, create new transportation options, improve connectivity throughout the state, shift towards cleaner fuels and help achieve our climate goals. California's investment today can help propel state's economic future by making our transportation network competitive with other global economies that have high-speed rail.

With renewed federal partnership, bipartisan support for infrastructure investment, and California's remarkable climate leadership, this is a promising time for high-speed rail in California.

Sincerely,



Laura Tolkoff
Transportation Policy Director