

April 21, 2026

Honorable Dave Cortese  
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee  
California State Senate  
1021 O St, Ste. 7520  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SB-1375 California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: urban intermodal rail station project – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Cortese,

On behalf of SPUR, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 1375, which provides a targeted California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemption for major urban intermodal rail stations - including the Diridon Station Program in the City of San José.

SPUR is a research, education and advocacy organization that focuses on good government and urban policy issues in the Bay Area's largest cities, including San José. We have been closely involved with the City's efforts to plan and deliver a reimagined Diridon Station for more than a decade and we are excited that SB 1375 will help this and similar projects around the state move forward.

Diridon Station is one of the most important existing and future transit hubs in California, serving as the convergence point for regional, statewide, and local transit systems, including BART, Caltrain, Altamont Corridor Express (ACE), Capitol Corridor, California High-Speed Rail, light rail, and bus services. Modernizing this station will significantly enhance connectivity, improve reliability, and expand access to sustainable transportation options.

SB 1375 reflects the extensive environmental review that has already been completed for major transit projects and land use plans in the Diridon Station area. However, the integrated nature of the station modernization program requires coordination across multiple systems that is not fully addressed under current CEQA exemptions. Without this legislation, the project may face unnecessary delays and increased costs. We appreciate that this situation is not unique to the Diridon Station project- and we are pleased that recent amendments to the bill will allow other complex rail station projects around the state to benefit from the streamlining provided by SB 1375.

By providing a narrow exemption, SB 1375 allows these critical and complex station projects to move forward efficiently while maintaining compliance with other applicable environmental laws and safeguards. Rail infrastructure and station projects in California face many challenges, but our ability to deliver them in a timely and cost effective manner is critical to the state's ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support transit-oriented development, create jobs, and strengthen California's overall transportation network.

For these reasons, SPUR respectfully urges your colleagues in the Legislature to support and approve SB 1375.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Laura Tolhoff

Transportation Policy Director

SPUR