



May 2, 2017

Media Contact: Tasha Bartholomew, 650.508.7927

Caltrain Electrification Funding Included in 2017 Federal Budget

The 2017 Federal Budget package that will be considered for approval by Congress this week includes a \$100 million investment in the [Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project \(PCEP\)](#).

Approximately \$73 million in Federal Core Capacity funding has already been set aside for the project in prior years. Approval of the 2017 budget and execution of a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) by the Federal Transit Administration would make over 25 percent of Caltrain's total \$647 million Federal funding request immediately available to start construction of the project, which would create more than 9,600 jobs.

In January, after a full assessment of the project's merits, the FFGA was recommended for approval, but the Administration delayed a final decision while the President's 2018 budget recommendations were being developed. Those recommendations are expected to be announced this month.

"We are cautiously optimistic, that bipartisan approval of the budget will be a signal that the Administration plans to follow through with a commitment to invest Caltrain electrification so we can put thousands of Americans to work and do our part to help drive the national economy," said Caltrain Executive Director Jim Hartnett. "Since the news of the delay in authorizing our FFGA, this is an encouraging sign that the efforts of our Congressional delegation and the employers and riders who have joined us in advocating for this project are having an impact."

Over \$1.3 billion has been secured to modernize Caltrain and operate electric trains that will expand capacity and deliver faster, more frequent service to Peninsula communities. The project is ready to start construction, and the final step is approval of the federal grant.

The inclusion of funding for the project in the 2017 budget provides Caltrain with the best indication yet that Federal investment in transit infrastructure will continue.

The Electrification Project is an opportunity to increase the capacity of the system and transform the way Bay Area experiences transit. Caltrain is already the mobility option of choice for over 65,000 daily riders. By connecting communities with more service to more stations and reducing travel times, electrification will make Caltrain even more attractive, equipping the system to accommodate more riders and

providing significant relief to drivers on busy local streets and roads and increasingly congested freeways.

To learn more about the Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project, click [HERE](#).

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About Caltrain: Owned and operated by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, Caltrain provides commuter rail service from San Francisco to San Jose, with limited commute service to Gilroy. Caltrain enjoyed five years of consecutive monthly ridership increases, surpassing more than 60,000 average weekday riders earlier this year. While the Joint Powers Board assumed operating responsibilities for the service in 1992, the railroad celebrated 150 years of continuous passenger service in 2014. Planning for the next 150 years of Peninsula rail service, Caltrain is on pace to electrify the system, reduce diesel emissions by 97 percent by 2040 and add more service to more stations.

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