



*Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eshoo
Fourteenth District
California*

December 9, 2011

The Honorable Victor M. Mendez, Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Office of the Administrator, Room E87
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

The Honorable Joseph C. Szabo, Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
Office of the Administrator, Room W30
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Administrators Mendez and Szabo,

I'm writing in support of Caltrain's application for two projects through the Railway-Highway Crossing Hazard Elimination in High Speed Rail Corridors Grant Program.

While the country explores the implementation of new state-of-the-art high-speed rail service, it is critical that we provide states and existing rail systems with the resources to deliver new service in the safest way possible. This is especially true in areas like the San Francisco Peninsula, where adding planned high-speed rail service to an already busy urban corridor will challenge growing communities that are constantly working to address increased traffic congestion and rail safety concerns.

Caltrain, with support from the California High-Speed Rail Authority, has submitted two applications to help ensure that new rail service is introduced to this area in a way that maximizes safety and minimizes impacts on local communities.

- A Grade Crossing Improvement Project: part of an ongoing effort to study the viability of integrated commuter and high-speed rail service on the Peninsula corridor. The project will identify and define grade crossing improvements and upgrades that will be needed to support blended high-speed and commuter rail operations at each of the corridor's vehicular crossings.

- Installation and Testing of Highway Crossing Integration and Signal Preemption Improvements Project: these upgrades are a component of Caltrain's Communications Based Overlay Signal System/Positive Train Control (CBOSS/PTC) project. These upgrades will provide critical safety improvements along the corridor in compliance with the federal Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008. Specifically, the highway crossing integration and signal preemption improvements will help increase the capacity of the corridor to accommodate additional train service including high-speed rail, and will allow more efficient operation of highway crossing warning equipment to reduce unnecessary "gate-down" time and traffic congestion at vehicular crossings.

Operating new rail service in these urban areas poses significant infrastructure and safety challenges. These projects will help ensure that California's high-speed rail system is developed, designed and operated in a way that enhances safety and improves both rail and vehicle traffic along one of the route's most densely populated sections.

I respectfully request that you give these projects your highest consideration.

Most gratefully,



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress