



City of Encinitas

Office of
The Mayor

March 27, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Catherine S. Blakespear
Mayor

Dear Secretary Chao:

Tony Kranz
Deputy Mayor

As part of a group of bipartisan mayors and local officials, I am writing to express strong support for the approval of the pending Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for Caltrain's Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project (PCEP). Approval of Caltrain's \$647 million FFGA will leverage more than \$1.3 billion investment from local, regional, and state sources into our national economy and generate much needed jobs in our communities. The PCEP has been planned for nearly 25 years, and will replace Caltrain's aging diesel fleet with high performance electric commuter rail trains.

Tasha Boerner Horvath
Council Member

Electrification will immediately increase the system's capacity and provide a foundation for additional improvements that will equip the corridor to accommodate, and help foster, sustained job and economic growth. We are very concerned with the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) announcement on February 17, 2017 that a decision regarding the FFGA has been delayed pending development of the President's 2018 Fiscal Year Budget. Deferring the approval of this funding puts the project and the associated 9,600 jobs at risk. Caltrain has awarded contracts and is ready to start construction immediately, but this work cannot begin unless the FFGA is signed in time to support critical project deadlines.

Mark Muir
Council Member

Caltrain, as the project sponsor, has been working with the Federal Transit Administration since 2009 to ensure that it meets all of the rigorous statutory and regulatory FFGA requirements of this competitive discretionary program. The project was subject to thorough evaluation, including ridership studies, design assessments, financial analyses and cost benefit analyses by the FTA and U.S. Department of Transportation. Caltrain has tremendous local support for this project, which is demonstrated by the significant overmatch, as the federal request makes up only 32% of the total project cost. The project was rated highly and was recommended for an FFGA, and previously appeared in the President's budget funding recommendations and bipartisan appropriation bills.

Joe Mosca
Council Member

Karen P. Brust
City Manager

I strongly encourage you to proceed with the expeditious approval of Caltrain's FFGA for the PCEP, which will fuel our economies and bring jobs to our regions. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with you to advance this project for the benefit of generations to come.

Sincerely,

Catherine S. Blakespear
Mayor

cc: Congressman Darrell Issa
City Council