



SILICON VALLEY
LEADERSHIP GROUP

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Assembly Transportation Committee
Assembly Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 112
Sacramento, CA 95814

March 4, 2021

RE: California High-Speed Rail Authority's Revised 2020 Business Plan Hearing

Dear Chair Friedman and Chair Bloom,

On behalf of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, we express our strong support for the California High-Speed Rail Authority's 2020 Revised Business Plan.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group is driven by more than 350 CEOs/Senior Executives to proactively tackle issues to improve our communities including on issues like transportation and housing. Collectively, Leadership Group members provide nearly one out of every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley. One of the top concerns of the members we represent in the Silicon Valley is a need for much better transportation here in the Bay Area.

Continuing to support High-Speed Rail will position California for Federal funding that may be available in the near future, getting us closer to the ultimate goal of having the world-class High-Speed Rail system California and the nation deserves.

High-Speed Rail is the right move for California's mobility and economy. In addition to its inherent potential and benefits connection our state, High-Speed Rail's Business Plan continues to support our broader rail and transit infrastructure.

Even now, the first all-electric Caltrain cars are coming to the Bay Area for testing. This was made possible in part by a \$700 Million investment made by High-Speed Rail to help electrify Caltrain. The significant ripple effect of these investments were seen as recently as this past November. The Silicon Valley Leadership Group led Measure RR to bring \$3 Billion to Caltrain over the next 30 years to save and expand this critical rail link. One of the key reasons Measure RR received more than 2/3 support from voters in three Bay Area Counties were the environmental and capacity benefits from an electrified system that funding from High-Speed Rail helped make possible. Continuing to think big and invest in High-Speed Rail is an investment in a better transportation system well beyond High-Speed Rail's own system.

Now, when there is renewed effort and energy at the Federal level to invest and think big about the possibilities of America's infrastructure, it is not the time for California to step back and allow others to lead on world-class infrastructure, the business competitiveness that comes with connected cities, and the daring to leap forward in tackling climate change.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group supports the direction of the 2020 Revised Business Plan and encourages the legislature to confirm commitment to that direction. We look forward to working with you on this and other ways to shore up California's infrastructure this year and for years to come.

Sincerely,

Jason Baker

Senior Vice President
Transportation, Health & Housing
Silicon Valley Leadership Group