



March 8th, 2021

RE: Support for CHSRA Revised Draft 2020 Business Plan

Dear Honorable Chair Richards, Assembly Transportation Subcommittee Members and Transportation Committee Members,

On behalf of Seamless Bay Area, a non-profit of supporting an integrated, world-class transit system for the San Francisco Bay Area, I am very pleased to submit this letter of support for the staff recommendations of the CA High-Speed Rail Authority Revised Draft 2020 Business Plan.

Completing high speed rail is essential to our state's ability to meet ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, by reducing the need for air travel and for driving. A critical complement to the completion of the high speed rail system should be increased investment in transit service across the state and policies that can bring about seamless integration between the statewide rail system and local and regional transit.

Independent peer review has confirmed the Merced-Fresno-Bakersfield corridor will result in the highest forecast ridership increase at the lowest increase in cost versus other transit alternatives. The 171-mile line Interim Operating Segment extending north to Merced and south to Bakersfield coordinated with improvements in both Northern and Southern California will create significant benefits including:

Seamless Bay Area also strongly support the recommendation that the \$4.1 billion in remaining Prop 1A HSR bond funds be directed to complete delivery of the 119-mile Central Valley Segment, and the remaining \$100 million in HSR bond funds be used for early design and completing environmental on in environmental review on San Francisco to Los Angeles Phase 1 segments of HSR. This funding is required to implement Merced-Fresno-Bakersfield HSR Interim Service and to extend HSR to San Francisco and Southern California in the future, extensions which will be critical to fighting climate change and working towards socioeconomic and racial equity in California in the next decade.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian Griffiths", written in a cursive style.

Ian Griffiths
Policy Director

www.seamlessbayarea.org