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May 4, 2020

County of San Mateo Board of Supervisors  
400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

**Re: Caltrain 1/8-cent sales tax on the November 2020 ballot (Item #8)**

Dear President Slocum, Vice President Canepa, and Supervisors Groom, Horsley, and Pine:

**The Silicon Valley Leadership Group strongly recommends that the County of San Mateo Board of Supervisors support the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board's placement of a 1/8-cent sales tax on the November 2020 ballot (Item #8).**

Today this board has the chance to take an important next step in transformative change for Caltrain and the region it serves. This measure will give voters the chance to invest in more high-quality transit in this critical and unique corridor. On behalf of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, we strongly urge you to pass this resolution to support the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board placing a measure of operating and capital funds for Caltrain on the November, 2020 ballot.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group was founded in 1978 by David Packard of Hewlett-Packard. Today, the Leadership Group is driven by nearly 350 member companies to proactively tackle issues to improve our communities and strengthen our economy, with a focus on an array of policy areas including transportation.

We strongly support this resolution as the next step on the path towards the dedicated source of operating funds Caltrain has long been without. The revenue raised by this 1/8-cent sales tax will offer solid support for Caltrain's ambitious Long Range Service Vision, including faster, more frequent service along this critical corridor.

We believe voters support a Caltrain funding measure as well. Caltrain has consistently polled at or above the two-thirds mark in each of five straight polls. The most recent poll, conducted by the Leadership Group in partnership with the Bay Area News Group in January 2020 shows 68% of respondents expressing support for the potential measure. Additional polling will, of course, be needed when the global health and economic situation is more clear.

Adopting this resolution will be the next step in allowing the Peninsula Joint Powers Board the opportunity to ask voters to approve a measure that will provide Caltrain the resources needed to deliver the fast, frequent, reliable service this corridor needs. The measure, if passed, will help Caltrain weather economic downturns and it will ensure that Caltrain is able to be the world-class transit system with the regional capacity that can help fuel the economic growth of our region.



Because a much more efficient, effective Caltrain system will improve our quality of life, access to economic opportunity, and our environment, we urge you to support this resolution. Thank you for your leadership and service to your community.

Sincerely,

*Jason T. Baker ICC*

Jason Baker  
Vice President  
Transportation, Housing & Community Development  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group