

June 12, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mike McGuire
President pro Tempore
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Scott Wiener, Chair
Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8620
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker of the Assembly
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: High-Speed Rail Project Funding

Dear Governor Newsom and Legislative Leaders,

The Madera County Transportation Commission urges you to provide continuous funding that will create long-term certainty, reduce cost escalation and inflation, and unlock private investment opportunities for the California High-Speed Rail (HSR) project.

The high-speed rail project is critical to the San Joaquin Valley. The State must deliver the 171-mile Merced to Bakersfield segment as soon as possible to improve air quality, enhance mobility, support economic development, and create jobs, rather than leaving unfinished infrastructure throughout the Valley. The MCTC supports completing the high-speed rail segment with stations in Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings-Tulare, and Bakersfield, which will help transform those communities by promoting transit-oriented development and generating numerous business opportunities for the region. Our region is working with the High-Speed Rail Authority (HSRA) to ensure that the early operating segment of the high-speed rail is fully integrated with expanded conventional passenger rail as part of a statewide network. These investments also help maintain and extend service for ACE and the San Joaquins.

We understand that HSRA's Project Update Report cites a \$7 billion shortfall for the project that may increase to \$10 billion if federal funding is withheld. This shortfall can be overcome by extending the Cap-and-Trade Program, which is estimated to have a surplus of funding beyond the \$4.4 billion

generated annually. This commitment could make private investment more compelling, as contemplated initially when the project was conceived, involving state, federal, and private funding.

We look forward to working with you on these issues. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our legislative advocate, Gus Khouri, at gus@khouriconsult.com or 916-605-8975. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



Patricia Taylor, Executive Director
Madera County Transportation Commission

cc: Members of the Assembly Budget Committee
Members of the Senate Budget Committee
The Honorable Marie Alvarado-Gil, Senator, 4th District
The Honorable Anna Caballero, Senator, 14th District
The Honorable Esmeralda Soria, Assemblymember, 27th District
The Honorable David S. Tangipa, Assemblymember, 8th District
Toks Omishakin, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency