

July 19, 2024

Secretary Toks Omishakin  
California State Transportation Agency  
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350B  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT:** Support for 2024 Cycle 7 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP):  
***Bridging Rail Initiatives, Technology, and Education (BRITE) Project***

Dear Secretary Omishakin,

The Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) strongly supports the application by San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC) to the California State Transportation Agency's (CalSTA) Cycle 7 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 for the ***Bridging Rail Initiatives, Technology, and Education (BRITE) Project*** (Project).

The Project will address TIRCP's goals and objectives by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improving safety, reducing vehicle miles traveled, expanding and integrating transit service to increase Valley Rail intercity and commuter passenger rail ridership as well as improving passenger experience. The Project benefits disadvantaged communities in the region by providing multi-modal transportation options, and workforce development opportunities.

The BRITE Project includes the following Valley Rail components:

- Stockton Diamond Grade Separation – This project will separate the north-south Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) mainline tracks from the two east-west Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) mainline tracks.
- South Stockton Yard Crossover – This project includes multiple switches, crossovers, signaling equipment and systems, special trackwork, and other needed improvements to support the Stockton Diamond track construction.
- Hydrogen F40 Locomotive Conversion – This project will convert F40 Locomotives from diesel to hydrogen hybrid propulsion to reduce emissions on the ACE and Valley Rail Corridors.
- Integrated Ticketing – This project will develop an integrated ticketing platform that seamlessly integrates ACE, San Joaquins, California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA), and other services into a unified platform, which supports the integrated rail operations in SJRRRC and SJJPA's Valley Rail Program and the planned Central Valley Segment of CHSRA.
- The Rail Academy of Central California (TRACC), led by SJRRRC and Sacramento City College, is a workforce training program that creates employment opportunities to

enhance the region's economic growth. The funds requested are for the operation of TRACC.

- Madera High Speed Rail Station Final Design – The project will construct a new station in Madera County for California's Interim High-Speed Rail (HSR) Service between Merced and Bakersfield. Located along Avenue 12, the station will provide Madera County with direct access to HSR service and better connect it with Fresno, the greater Central Valley region, and the rest of California. Future transit-oriented development along the Avenue 12 Corridor, together with improved transit connectivity, will ensure that Madera County can capture the full economic and environmental benefits of HSR and sustainable growth patterns.
- Network Integration Planning – Funding is requested to complete service planning needed to implement and coordinate a network of bus and rail services providing connections to the SJRRC Valley Rail program in the San Joaquin Valley, which will enhance the benefits of the BRITE project.

SJRRC is requesting \$83.9 million in grant funding for the BRITE Project. SJRRC has secured a total of approximately \$420 million already for improvements included in the BRITE Project application.

The BRITE Project is comprised of critical initiatives that are needed to achieve the goals of the Valley Rail program. Each facet of the project aligns with and supports the State of California vision and goals for zero emission transportation capabilities, strengthen local economies with job creation, and prioritize equity in transportation and access to disadvantaged and underserved communities. An award of this magnitude will greatly impact on the agency's ability to successfully complete these much-needed improvements for passenger rail in the San Joaquin Valley and Northern California.

MCTC would like to thank CalSTA for its consideration and welcomes the opportunity to support SJRRC in the pursuit of this Project.

Sincerely,



Patricia Taylor, Executive Director  
Madera County Transportation Commission