

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Amit Bose
Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Application: **Valley Rail North – Sacramento Extension Project**

Dear Administrator Bose,

I write in support of the application by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRR) to the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program (CRISI) for the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Application competitive grant program for Valley Rail North – Sacramento Extension Project (Project).

The purpose of the Project is to implement various improvements on Valley Rail North Corridor (extension to Natomas). The network of projects includes construction of new stations, siding upgrades, track extensions, yard rehabilitation, etc. When the Project is completed, it will implement new and increased San Joaquin passenger and ACE rail service with five new stations between Stockton and Sacramento. The Project will meet regional goals to improve passenger rail ridership and connectivity. The Project aligns with the CRISI program criteria by constructing infrastructure improvements that will improve safety, support economic vitality, create good-paying jobs, increase capacity and supply chain resilience, apply innovative technology, and address climate change, gender equity and racial equity.

SJRR is requesting \$120 million in grant funding for the Project. SJRR has secured more than 40% for the matching funding needed to complete this Project.

The Valley Rail Program provides critical connectivity to California's future high-speed rail (HSR) service at the Merced HSR Station and with the Valley Link Project at the North Lathrop Transfer Station. The Valley Rail Program helps implement the 2023 State Rail Plan and is essential to realizing that vision and directly serves over 30% of California's Disadvantaged Communities.

Madera County Transportation Commission would like to thank the USDOT for its consideration and welcomes the opportunity to support SJRR in the pursuit of CRISI grant funding to support the Project.

We urge your careful consideration and review of this important funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'PTaylor', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Patricia Taylor
Executive Director
Madera County Transportation Commission