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December 8, 2021

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

RE: San Jose CRISI Application for the Southern San José Grade Separations Project

Dear Administrator Bose:

I am writing in support of the City of San José's application to the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program for the Southern San José Grade Separations project, which will address important safety, noise, and emergency access concerns at this section of the railway corridor, while improving Caltrain and high-speed rail (HSR) service reliability.

The work funded by this application would significantly advance progress toward completing important grade separations in Southern San José, including three existing at-grade crossings at Skyway Drive, Branham Lane, and Chynoweth Avenue, on the future HSR corridor between the San Francisco Bay Area and California's Central Valley. This segment of line will allow California's high-speed rail to connect cities in the Central Valley to the economic opportunities in the Silicon Valley. It will also enable frequent all-day Caltrain service connecting low-income and minority neighborhoods in southern San José to employment centers in Silicon Valley and San Francisco.

The existing at-grade crossings are currently ranked #19 in the California Grade Separation Program Priority List for Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021.^[1] The three crossings see over 33,000 vehicles and 10 trains per day. Under the California State Rail Plan, the passenger train traffic will grow from eight trains a day to over 370 passenger trains per day by 2040. Separation of the three at-grade crossings will reduce delays and risks associated with highway-rail grade crossings and reduce significant noise, vibration, and emergency access impacts to

^[1] <https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M341/K610/341610273.PDF>

disproportionately low-income and minority communities that will be caused by increased train and vehicle traffic through the at-grade crossings.

The current open nature of the corridor has raised significant challenges related to trespassing, dumping, and illegal encampments. The Southern San José Grade Separations Project will complete the separation of an eleven mile stretch of railroad through San José, drastically reducing trespassing and bring additional quality of life benefits to the area by reducing train horn noise. The funding in this CRISI application will support the preliminary engineering, design, and environmental review allowing the City of San José to bring the grade separations into the same level of readiness as the California HSR Project. Bringing the two projects into the same level of readiness will enable the City to incorporate the grade separation into the implementation of the HSR project as funding for the construction of each is secured.

I respectfully urge you to support the approval of this application and thank you for your full and fair consideration, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Zoe Lofgren", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

