

California Legislature

March 16, 2009

The Honorable Alan S. Lowenthal
Chair, Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing
State Capital, Room 2209
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Overview of High Speed Rail Program in California; Meeting of the
Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing, March 17, 2009

Dear Chairman Lowenthal and Members of the Committee:

This letter is to provide our unreserved support for the Transbay Transit Center Program, as the northern California terminus for high-speed rail.

Although no specific legislation to distribute Proposition 1A funds is before the Senate Transportation Committee at this time, we urge you to give the Transbay Transit Center Program high priority for funding when the Committee does consider such legislation. We further urge the Committee to support the allocation of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funds to bring high-speed rail to the Transbay Transit Center.

The Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) was created by voters to implement the Transbay Transit Center Program, which includes construction of a new multi-modal Transit Center at First and Mission Streets in San Francisco, including a Downtown Extension of the Caltrain rail line to accommodate Caltrain commuter trains and high-speed rail. To realize the full benefits of high-speed rail, California voters mandated in Proposition 1A that high-speed trains deliver passengers to the Transit Center in downtown San Francisco. Here, passengers have direct access to offices, housing, shopping, hotels, other urban amenities, and, most importantly, other modes of transportation.

The Transbay Program is an integral part of Phase 1 of the high-speed rail project – the corridor between the Transbay Terminal and Los Angeles Union Station and Anaheim. In designating this corridor Phase 1 of the high-speed rail system, the voters clearly expect that construction of this corridor will proceed first. When evaluated using the criteria identified in Proposition 1A, the Transbay Program scores higher than any other segment in the Transbay Terminal to Los Angeles Union Station corridor.

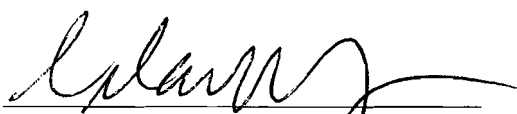
In allocating the \$8 billion Congress appropriated for high speed rail in the ARRA, the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) intends to give priority to



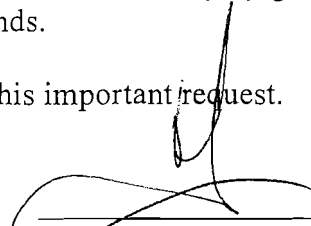
“shovel ready” projects. The Transbay Program is the only component of California’s high-speed rail system that is environmentally cleared under both CEQA and NEPA. The Program is not merely “shovel ready.” Construction is already underway on a Temporary Terminal to relocate buses from the Transbay Terminal while the new Transit Center is under construction, and the TJPA is nearing the end of Schematic Design for the Transit Center. With several ready-to-go contracts over the next 18 months for demolition of the Transbay Terminal and construction of the new Transit Center, the Transit Center is a prime candidate for federal stimulus money.

Prop 1A and ARRA funds for the Transbay Transit Center train station and rail extension are essential if high-speed rail is to become a reality in California. Time is of the essence for appropriating Proposition 1A funds and securing a share of ARRA money for California. High-speed rail will be best served if this Committee takes full advantage of Proposition 1A and federal stimulus money by giving the Transbay Transit Center high priority for these funds.

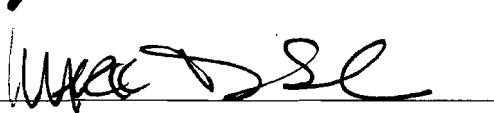
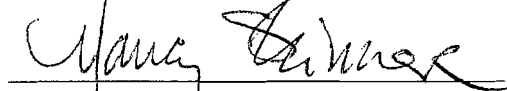
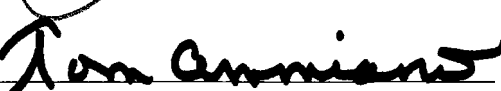
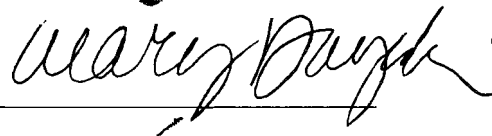
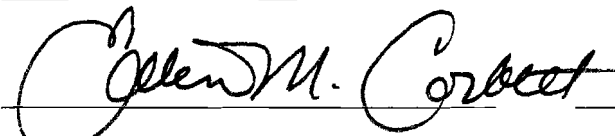
Thank you for your attention to this important request.



Louis Haubock



Mark Lewis



cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Senate President Pro Tempore, Darrell Steinberg
Assembly Speaker Karen Bass
Honorable Quentin Kopp, Chairman, &
Members of the California High Speed Rail Commission
Secretary Dale Bonner, Business, Transportation & Housing Agency
Will Kempton, Director, Department of Transportation

Letter Signatures

Senator Leland Yee

Assemblywoman Fiona Ma

Senator Loni Hancock

Senator Mark Leno

Senator Ellen Corbett

Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi

Assemblyman Tom Ammiano

Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner

Senator Mark DeSaulnier