



May 22, 2020

Assembly Transportation Committee
1020 N Street Room 112
Sacramento, California 95814
c/o Eric Thronson (eric.thronson@asm.ca.gov)

Re: High Speed Rail – Support for Draft 2020 Business Plan

Dear Members of the Assembly Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the Council of Infill Builders, a statewide organization of real estate professionals committed to improving California through infill development, I write to support the California High Speed Rail Authority's draft 2020 business plan.

High speed rail is a critical infrastructure project to connect California's major urban areas through sustainable and fast transportation that provides a badly needed alternative to the automobile and aviation. It will provide a critical link to the Central Valley, a region of the state that for too long has been disconnected from the more prosperous coastal economies.

High speed rail will provide vital investment to stimulate infill development in existing urban areas throughout the Central Valley, relieving development pressure on nearby farmland and open space. For this reason, we support the plan's focus on connecting urban destinations, such as from Merced to Bakersfield, with genuinely high-speed rail that connects 8 of the state's top 10 most populated regions. The rail line will expand options for where people can live and work without automobile dependency, while reinforcing downtowns and equitable infill development.

For these reasons, we support the draft business plan. The Council of Infill Builders thanks you for your legislative oversight and efforts on California's high speed rail system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meea Kang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Meea Kang
Council of Infill Builders

cc: Jack Wursten (jack.wursten@hsr.ca.gov)