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February 26, 2024

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ROSANNE FOUST
President & CEO
SAMCEDA

Thomas Richards, *Chair*
California High-Speed Rail Authority
770 L Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Support for the Draft 2024 Business Plan

Dear Chair Richards and Members of the Authority Board,

For seven decades, the San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA) has been a leading voice for the economic engine that is San Mateo County. SAMCEDA believes in the power of a strong economy driven by an appreciation of what that engine provides to our ecosystem on the Peninsula.

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By working with employers of all sizes and industries, engaging with our public sector and our elected leadership, recognizing that we have 21 individual jurisdictions (20 cities and one county) and collaborating and communicating with the Chambers of Commerce, non-profit organizations, and our educational institutions, SAMCEDA tackles the most difficult challenges through goal-oriented solutions.

On behalf of SAMCEDA, I am writing to express our support for the *Draft 2024 Business Plan*, and we recommend appropriate review and adoption by the Authority Board and California Legislature.

SAMCEDA has supported High-Speed Rail in California since the inception of the system by voter approval in 2008. Our support remains strong, especially regarding the following issues:

- Continued efforts to secure federal, state, and regional funding for all aspects of the project.
- The investment of more than \$700 million for the electrification of the Caltrain corridor between San Francisco and San Jose due to start electrified service this September.
- In Northern California, continued preparation for advanced design as funding becomes available.
- Continued collaborative ventures like the Portal, aimed at linking the current rail line to downtown San Francisco's Salesforce Transit Center, and the Diridon Integrated Concept Plan for transforming Diridon Station in San José into a key intermodal hub.
- Continued Authority efforts to support the full grade separation of the Caltrain corridor.
- Ongoing recognition that the Authority must support the ability of local jurisdictions along the future rail corridor to meet the requirements and goals in state-mandated Housing Elements by supporting residential and commercial development.

**EMERITUS ADVISORS
TO THE CHAIR**

NORMAN BOOK, JR.
Carr McClellan

T. JACK FOSTER, JR.
Foster Enterprises



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Thank you for your ongoing commitment to success of High-Speed Rail in the State of California and the work which has gone into the *Draft 2024 Business Plan*.

Sincerely,

Rosanne Foust
President & CEO
SAMCEDA

CC: California State Assembly *Transportation Committee*
California Senate *Transportation Committee & Budget Subcommittee No. 5*
San Mateo County Federal, State, and County delegations
Brian Kelly, *CEO, CAHSR*
Michelle Bouchard, *Executive Director, Caltrain*
April Chan, *General Manager & CEO, SamTrans*
Sean Charpentier, *Executive Director, C/CAG*