

February 11, 2017



The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of HNTB, congratulations on your confirmation as the 18th Secretary of Transportation. HNTB looks forward to working with you and the Trump Administration.

The Federal Transit Administration has recently recommended funding the Electrification of Caltrain Joint Powers Board for \$647 Million through the Core Capacity Grant Program. HNTB supports this transformative investment in California's future and encourages you to concur with the FTA funding recommendation.

HNTB is an award-winning infrastructure solutions firm providing planning, design, program management and construction management services and can attest to the positive economic benefits of the program. HNTB is currently providing consulting services for the San Francisco to San Jose section and the San Jose to Merced sections. Approximately one-third of our Northern California workforce is dedicated to the project. In addition, we have subcontracts with nearly twenty small, disabled veteran, and disadvantaged firms. HNTB is also providing Construction Management services for Construction Package 4 which also includes multiple subcontracts with small, disabled veteran, and disadvantaged firms.

HNTB believes California's unique geography, growing population centers, and overcrowded airports and highways provide the necessity for a High-Speed Rail Corridor connecting the San Francisco Bay Area to Southern California. By connecting all of California's major population centers, HSR will enhance California's economic competitiveness, revitalize our cities, create jobs and protect the environment. The project also has elements to attract private investment and is planning to use a public-private partnership model. The FTA funding for Caltrain is important to modernizing existing local rail service and a critical early investment in the HSR program.

Over the last two years, significant progress has been made implementing HSR. There are now more than 119 miles of construction related activities underway in the Central Valley. In the Fresno area, HSR construction has contributed to historic economic growth. Unemployment has fallen below 10%, well below the 25-year average for the region. Statewide, HSR has created over 20,000 job-years of employment and generated over \$3.5 billion in economic activity while engaging over 630 private sector firms to work on the program.

HNTB applauds President Trump's commitment to investing in our nation's infrastructure. FTA funding for the Electrification of Caltrain and future support for HSR is one of many projects that will help secure his legacy as a builder of our nation's future.

Sincerely,



Art Hadnett
President
HNTB West Division