

U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

May 23, 2013

The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

We're pleased to offer our strong support of Caltrain's TIGER V grant application for the installation of infrastructure necessary to support blended high-speed rail service on the San Jose to San Francisco corridor.

As you know, the Communications Based Overlay Signal System/Positive Train Control (CBOSS/PTC) is an essential part of Caltrain's Modernization program. Strong regional commitment to CBOSS/PTC is reflected by a recent agreement between the California High Speed Rail Authority and a group of local and regional transportation partners. This advanced signal system will enhance safety, increase ridership capacity, improve grade crossing functions, and satisfy federally mandated safety improvements which must be installed on every passenger rail corridor by the end of 2015.

The electrification and modernization of the Caltrain rail corridor is long overdue. After 33 months of consecutive ridership gains, many of Caltrain's peak hour trains are operating at or beyond capacity. However, without a dedicated source of operating funds, the system struggles to maintain existing service levels. By providing enhanced service and controlling operating costs, modernization will allow Caltrain to operate a level of service that helps meet increasing ridership demand, reduces the subsidy required to operate the service, and connects Peninsula communities with a quieter, cleaner, and safer rail system.

This worthy project will enhance overall safety, eliminate the risk of train-to-train collisions, reduce the risk of potential derailments, and provide additional safety for railroad workers on the track. The system will also increase operating performance, resulting in more frequent and dependable passenger service. Importantly, it will also reduce gate down time on a corridor with over 40 at-grade vehicular and pedestrian crossings, meaning travelers who cross the tracks will benefit from improved local traffic circulation.

We thank you in advance for your high consideration of this important request to support Caltrain's TIGER V Application.

Most gratefully,



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Mike Honda
Member of Congress