

Amit Bose, Federal Railroad Association Administrator
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington DC 20590

Re: Grant Proposal for Federal Rail Administration Federal State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail

Dear Administrator Bose:

Contra Costa County supports the City of Hercules' **Federal Rail Administration Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program (FSP-National)** application for the final design funding of the Hercules Hub, a new Capitol Corridor train station.

The Hercules Hub meets the FSP-National grant program's objective of improving the American passenger rail system by expanding Capitol Corridor intercity passenger rail service in the San Francisco Bay Area megaregion, currently the fifth largest economy in the United States. For residents of Western Contra Costa County, which lags behind much of the Bay Area in terms of employment and economic opportunity, the Hub will be an invaluable resource to connect residents to opportunities in the megaregion. The existing Capitol Corridor stations at Martinez and Richmond are too far away to be a convenient option for many in nearby low-income and disadvantaged communities (e.g., Crockett, Rodeo, Pinole, and Sobrante). Improving connectivity for these residents to key employment destinations throughout the San Francisco Bay Area exemplifies the transformation that is necessary for our nation's transportation infrastructure.

The Hercules Hub is a critical infrastructure investment designed to address issues with transportation, housing, economic growth, and climate change. By constructing an intercity rail station that will be a centerpiece of a large transit-oriented community, the Hercules Hub improves both housing and transportation affordability, encouraging mode shift from cars to multi-modal trips to benefit the environment, and delivers on key goals and objectives set by Congress and the Biden Administration in enacting the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). For the past 20 years, the City has been working steadily, laying the necessary groundwork to advance this project. The final elements of the Hub requires your support. This application will fund the final design of this last element by leveraging other state and local funding for this project.

As the megaregion and the state recover from the pandemic, we are seeing the travel patterns of commuters and rail users change, making access to the rail network and better connections among existing rail systems more important than ever. In addition, as the State sets out to achieve aggressive targets for greenhouse gas reductions, improvements that provide wider access to the state rail network are critical. Now is the time to invest in the infrastructure necessary to provide safe, efficient, equitable, and affordable access to the passenger rail network for everyone. I respectfully urge you to consider support the Hercules Hub project, which will build needed transportation infrastructure in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Sincerely,

John Gioia

Chair
Board of Supervisors