



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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October 11, 2011

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman
Member
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

The Honorable Robert E. Primus
Member
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
Member
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

The Honorable Michelle A. Schultz
Member
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20423
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FD-35941

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
October 13, 2021
Part of
Public Record

Dear Chairman Oberman and Members Fuchs, Begeman, Schultz, and Primus,

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), in partnership with the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority (HDCJPA), is writing to communicate its support for the High Desert Corridor ("HDC") Rail Project.

As the regional transportation planning agency responsible for the planning, construction and operation of public transportation in Los Angeles County, LA Metro continues to support the HDC Rail Project which will enhance regional, intercity and interstate mobility and serve important transportation needs of LA County residents, connecting the fast-growing areas of Antelope Valley and Victor Valley with the urban areas in Los Angeles and Las Vegas via a high-speed, environmentally friendly public transportation option. In August 2020, Metro, in partnership with Brightline West and the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) and in coordination with the HDCJPA, committed \$5 million towards the development of a Service Development Plan including a Funding Plan for the HDC Rail Project as part of an integrated intercity rail network planned between Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

The HDC Rail Project will improve access to jobs by connecting rural areas with the urban core where jobs are concentrated via high-speed rail. In addition, the HDC Rail Project will help provide more affordable housing options to individuals and families who may work in the urban cores of Los Angeles and Las Vegas and live in the Antelope and Victor Valleys to achieve a better quality of life.

The HDC Rail Project is also a key part of California's State Rail Plan, which aims to greatly expand California's high-speed rail system by 2040, including by connecting Los Angeles to Las Vegas. The primary highway between Las Vegas and Los Angeles, I-15, has been strained by traffic as the population has increased in both regions. The HDC Rail Project will alleviate congestion on I-15 by providing a safe, clean and efficient transportation option between Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

Metro appreciates the Surface Transportation Board's consideration of HDCJPA's petition request for this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vincent Chio', with a stylized, flowing script.

Vincent Chio
Project Manager, HDC Rail Service Development Plan
Senior Director, Regional Rail
LA Metro

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have this day served copies of the foregoing letter upon all parties of record in this proceeding, by either first class mail or electronic mail.

DATED: October 13, 2021

/s/ Jay Fuhrman

Jay Fuhrman