COUNCIL REPORT

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

AGENDA: November 16, 2010

7.1

CATEGORY: New Business

DEPT.: Public Works

TITLE: Letters Regarding California High-Speed Rail Project

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Mayor, on behalf of the City Council, to send letters regarding the California High-Speed Rail Project as recommended by the Council High-Speed Rail Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT—None.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (CSHRA) is continuing efforts to finalize and release a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIR/DEIS) for the San Francisco-to-San Jose section of the California High-Speed Rail (HSR) Project. CHSRA staff has been consistently stating that the DEIR/DEIS will be released for public comment in December 2010. It is staff's understanding that an Administration Draft is currently being circulated within the Authority for internal review. Recent events (i.e., identification of the Central Valley as the first portion of the project to begin construction) have reinforced speculation by some CHSRA staff that the release date may be deferred, though nothing official has been stated.

Council High-Speed Rail Committee (CHSRC) members and City staff have continued attending meetings regarding the HSR Project. Additionally, communications between the City and other communities and agencies affected have been ongoing.

At the November 1, 2010 meeting, the CHSRC recommended that the City Council consider sending the following letters related to the HSR project:

California High-Speed Rail Authority Board

At the October 21, 2010, Peninsula Rail Program Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting, Bob Doty, Director of the Peninsula Rail Program of the CHSRA, indicated that the public comment period for the DEIR/DEIS will be the 45-day legal minimum.

Recommendation: Send a letter to the California High-Speed Rail Authority Board requesting a minimum 90-day review/comment period for the DEIR/DEIS for the San Jose-to-San Francisco section. This extended time will provide Mountain View with a more reasonable

opportunity to maximize participation from our community and offer thoughtful public and City Council comments to the California High-Speed Rail Authority. A draft letter is attached (Attachment 1).

Congressional Representative

Councilmember Abe-Koga received a request from a member of the San Mateo city council to have Mountain View consider sending a letter to our Federal legislative representative (Congresswoman Anna Eshoo), requesting that she request additional Federal funding to ensure that the HSR project is built in a way that respects our City and our General Plan. The CHSRC discussed this item and recommends that the City Council consider sending such a letter.

Recommendation: Send the attached letter (Attachment 2). The form of the attached draft letter is the same as sent to Congresswoman Speier by the City of San Mateo and the City of Burlingame city councils. Staff has added language regarding a tunnel option to the fourth paragraph.

Caltrain

Caltrain has recently started to take a more active role in the Peninsula Rail Program meetings to advocate for Caltrain service and systems. At the October 21, 2010 TWG meeting, a Caltrain staff member assured the attendees that, although Caltrain had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the CHSRA which created the Peninsula Rail Program, Caltrain's first priority is their customers/riders and the communities they serve. The recommendation is to send a letter to communicate the City's support and encouragement of these refocused efforts. A draft letter is attached (Attachment 3).

Recommendation: Send a letter to Michael Scanlon, Executive Director of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, emphasizing the importance of Caltrain service to Mountain View and that we look forward to Caltrain using its partnership with the CHSRA to ensure that the local commuter services and effect on communities be a priority in any Caltrain efforts regarding their own capital projects and those planned in conjunction with the HSR Project.

Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)

Because VTA is a member of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, an additional recommendation is to send a letter to the VTA to also emphasize that Caltrain's new focus is appropriate and to encourage Caltrain to keep the ridership and cities' interests in mind as the project moves forward. A draft letter is attached (Attachment 4).

Recommendation: Send a letter to Michael Burns, VTA's General Manager, emphasizing the importance of Caltrain service to Mountain View and our request that the VTA encourage and support Caltrain in using the partnership with the CHSRA to ensure that the local commuter services and effect on communities be a priority in any Caltrain efforts regarding their own capital projects and those planned in conjunction with the HSR.

PUBLIC NOTICING—Agenda posting.

Prepared by:

Jacqueline Andrews Solomon
Deputy Public Works Director

Approved by:

for Michael A. Fuller
Public Works Director

Kevin C. Duggan
City Manager

JAS/HK/5/CAM
915-11-16-10M-E-1^

Attachments:
1. Draft Letter to CHSRA
2. Draft Letter to Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
3. Draft Letter to Mr. Scanlon, Caltrain/JPB
4. Draft Letter to Mr. Burns, VTA

Attachment 1

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

Office of the Mayor and City Council • 500 Castro Street • Post Office Box 7540 • Mountain View, California 94039-7540
650-903-6305 • FAX 650-903-6039

November 16, 2010 **DRAFT**

Chairperson Curt Pringle
Board of Directors
California High-Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street, Suite 1425
Sacramento, CA 95814

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL DEIR/DEIS—REQUEST FOR 90-DAY REVIEW

Dear Mr. Pringle:

On behalf of the City Council, I am formally requesting that the public comment period for the Draft Project Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/DEIS) for the San Francisco-to-San Jose segment of the California High-Speed Rail Project be a minimum of 90 days.

Mr. Doty indicated at the Peninsula Rail Program Technical Working Group meeting on October 21, 2010 that the Authority is planning the minimum 45-day review period. Forty-five days is insufficient for our community to review the DEIR/DEIS, given the complexity and depth of the information to be released on the nation's largest capital improvement project. The extended time will provide Mountain View with a more reasonable opportunity to maximize participation from our community and offer thoughtful public and City Council comments to the California High-Speed Rail Authority.

Thank you for considering this request. If you have any questions, please contact me or Mike Fuller, Public Works Director, at (650) 903-6077.

Sincerely,

Ronit Bryant
Mayor

RB/HK/8/PWK
915-11-04-10L-E^

cc: Board of Directors, California High-Speed Rail Authority

Mr. Roelof Van Ark, CEO, California High-Speed Rail Authority

Mr. Bob Doty, Director, Peninsula Rail Program, California High-Speed Rail Authority

Mr. Dominic Spaethling, Regional Manager, California High-Speed Rail Authority

Mr. Michael Scanlon, Executive Director, Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board

City Council

CM, CA, CC(A), PWD, CDD, DPWD, PM—Kim

Attachment 2

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

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November 16, 2010 **DRAFT**

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
United States House of Representatives
205 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0514

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT—ADDITIONAL FEDERAL FUNDS

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

On behalf of City of Mountain View, I want to thank you for your continued representation of the Bay Area Peninsula concerns regarding the California High-Speed Rail Project. I am writing to ask for your assistance to secure additional Federal funds to ensure the High-Speed Rail Project is built through Mountain View in a manner consistent with our General Plan and the character and quality of our neighborhoods.

As the largest public infrastructure project ever undertaken in California, the High-Speed Rail Project could benefit our State through job creation, reduction of greenhouse gases and creation of a modern, sustainable transportation system that will carry California through the 21st Century. The project also has the potential to improve our community's quality of life and tie our neighboring cities more closely together, if built in a manner that does not divide our City.

However, the City of Mountain View, like many communities along the Peninsula between San Francisco and San Jose, is rightfully concerned with how the high-speed rail will travel through our community. The City supports high-speed rail but needs to make sure the project is built properly without adverse impacts to our community and residents.

Additional funding for the Bay Area Peninsula portion of the High-Speed Rail Project to assist in both the design and construction phases would go a long way toward helping alleviate the concerns in our community. It has been suggested that cities pay for the cost differential between their preferred design and the least-expensive design. This proposal is unreasonable and, in current economic conditions, impossible. Adequate funding will enable design engineers to create a tunnel, uncovered trench and covered trench solution that has the lowest possible impact on our community.

Thank you again for your support and tireless work on this crucial High-Speed Rail Project.

Sincerely,

Ronit Bryant
Mayor

RB/HK/7/PWK
915-11-04-10L-E-2^

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein

Senator Barbara Boxer

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Senator Elaine Alquist

Assembly Member Paul Fong

Board of Directors, California High-Speed Rail Authority

Mr. Roelof Van Ark, CEO, California High-Speed Rail Authority

Mr. Dominic Spaethling, Program Manager, California High-Speed Rail Authority

Mr. Bob Doty, Director, Peninsula Rail Program, California High-Speed Rail Authority

Mr. Michael Scanlon, Executive Director, Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board

City Council

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Attachment 3

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

Office of the Mayor and City Council • 500 Castro Street • Post Office Box 7540 • Mountain View, California 94039-7540
650-903-6305 • FAX 650-903-6039

November 16, 2010 **DRAFT**

Mr. Michael J. Scanlon, Executive Director
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
1250 San Carlos Avenue—P.O. Box 3006
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306

CALTRAIN SERVICE AND HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT

Dear Mr. Scanlon:

On behalf of the City Council, I am writing to support and encourage Caltrain and the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board's refocused efforts regarding the California High-Speed Rail Project.

At the October 21, 2010 Peninsula Rail Program, Technical Working Group meeting, a Caltrain staff member assured the attendees that although Caltrain had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the California High-Speed Rail Authority which created the Peninsula Rail Program, Caltrain's first priority is their customers/riders and the communities they serve.

The City Council wishes to reiterate our ongoing support of Caltrain and to emphasize the importance of Caltrain service to Mountain View. Caltrain is in a unique position to use its partnership with the California High-Speed Rail Authority to ensure that the local commuter services and effect on communities be a priority in any future Caltrain capital projects and any projects developed in conjunction with the High-Speed Rail Project.

The City of Mountain View appreciates you taking our community's concerns seriously and encourages you to continue to ensure the High-Speed Rail Project is designed and built properly.

Thank you again for your support and work on this project.

Sincerely,

Ronit Bryant
Mayor

RB/HK/7/PWK
915-11-04-10L-E-1^

cc: Board of Directors, California High-Speed Rail Authority

Mr. Roelof Van Ark, CEO, California High-Speed Rail Authority

Mr. Dominic Spaethling, Regional Manager, California High-Speed Rail Authority

Mr. Bob Doty, Director, Peninsula Rail Program, California High-Speed Rail Authority

City Council

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Attachment 4

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

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November 16, 2010

DRAFT

Mr. Michael Burns, General Manager
Valley Transportation Authority
3331 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95134

CALTRAIN SERVICE AND HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT

Dear Mr. Burns:

On behalf of the Mountain View City Council, I encourage the Valley Transportation Agency (VTA) to support Caltrain's efforts to advocate for its riders and the interests of the local communities it serves in its discussions with the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) relating to the preparation of the environmental document and design drawings for the San Jose-to-San Francisco section of the California High-Speed Rail Project.

As the County's transportation agency, a member of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB), and one of Caltrain's funding agencies, the VTA is in a unique position to encourage Caltrain to use its partnership with the CHSRA to ensure that any future Caltrain capital projects developed in conjunction with the High-Speed Rail Project place a priority on improving local commuter service for Caltrain riders and the communities Caltrain serves.

The City of Mountain View encourages the VTA to support Caltrain's advocacy efforts as the environmental review and design phases of the California High-Speed Rail Project continue.

Sincerely,

Ronit Bryant
Mayor

RB/JS/6/PWK/912-11-09-10L-E-1^

cc: Board of Directors, California High-Speed Rail Authority

Mr. Roelof Van Ark, CEO, California High-Speed Rail Authority

Mr. Dominic Spaethling, Regional Manager, California High-Speed Rail Authority

Mr. Bob Doty, Director, Peninsula Rail Program, California High-Speed Rail Authority

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