CITY OF
SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

Chuck Reed
MAYOR

January 6, 2010

California High Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street, Suite 1425
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear California High Speed Rail Authority Board Members:

On behalf of the City of San José, we respectfully request continued study of the underground option at the Diridon Station EIR/EIS alternatives analysis process.

On December 3, 2009, the High Speed Rail Authority's board reviewed several options for alignments into and from Diridon station, in downtown San José. Staff recommended that the Authority exclude all but two alignments from further consideration: one elevated route along the existing Caltrain right-of-way, and another elevated option along the 87-280 freeway corridors.

In early 2009, the San José City Council convened a Diridon "Good Neighbor" Committee—consisting of local neighborhood, business, and labor stakeholders—to assess the impacts of various emerging opportunities in the Diridon area, including High Speed Rail, a ballpark, and a BART station. On December 7, 2009, the Good Neighbor Committee expressed unanimous opposition to the elimination of an underground option from study in the EIR/EIS.

In following the recommendation of the "Good Neighbor" Committee, we do not presume that an underground option will prove to be the most feasible from a two-dimensional cost-benefit analysis. Nor do we overlook the extraordinary costs that an underground option poses on the Authority, or the environmental impacts of tunneling on groundwater hydrology. We are also cognizant of the financial risks posed by preserving this underground option, because this segment must compete with other segments along the California corridor—and with high-speed rail programs planned in other parts of the country—for scarce federal dollars. By advocating to further study an underground option, we do not seek to slow the EIR process to the point that it could jeopardize the "shovel-readiness" of the project in the eyes of federal funders. We ask that the underground option be further studied through the alternatives analysis process in order to fully address all of our concerns.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to continuing our collaboration on this once in a lifetime project.

Sincerely,

Chuck Reed
Mayor

Sam Liccardo
Councilmember, District 3

Pierluigi Oliverio
Councilmember, District 6

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