



Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare
Partners: Amtrak, Caltrans Division of Rail, BNSF Railway Company, Union Pacific Railroad

REPRESENTING COUNTIES ALONG THE SAN JOAQUIN RAIL CORRIDOR

June 25, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

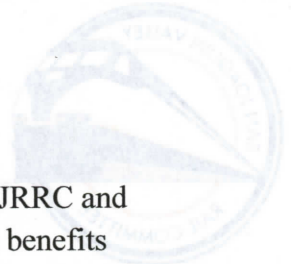
Re: Support for the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission's FY 2019 BUILD Grant Application for the Stockton Diamond Grade Separation

Dear Madam Secretary:

On behalf of the San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee, the voice of riders, residents and businesses throughout California from Los Angeles through the Central Valley to Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay Area, I am writing to express our strong support for the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission's (SJRRRC's) FY 2019 BUILD Grant application for the Stockton Diamond Grade Separation project. Funding of their request will allow SJRRRC to leverage State funds to construct a transformative rail infrastructure project that will (1) improve safety on the freight network, (2) increase the efficiency of freight and passenger rail movement, (3) provide improved access from the Port of Stockton to national and worldwide markets, and (4) facilitate continued economic growth and competitiveness for all counties served by the rail network.

The Port of Stockton and the freight railroad network are major economic assets to the San Joaquin Valley and Northern California mega-region. By completing a grade separation at the intersection of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) and the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) in Stockton, the Port and its customers will benefit from greater freight rail efficiency through the elimination of freight interference between the two Class I railroads operating in this high-volume area. The grade separation will improve freight rail throughput along the region's rail network, resulting in fuel and operating cost savings, as well as reduced traffic delays and improved air quality.

Tens of thousands of residents of the San Joaquin Valley and Northern California rely on the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) and Amtrak San Joaquins passenger services as their source of transportation. Construction of the grade separation will help reduce current delays for these vital passenger rail services and support future expansion.



The San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee values its working relationship with SJRRC and strongly supports their BUILD application. Given the many public and private benefits associated with this project for our region, I urge you to support their application. Thank you for your consideration of investment for this extremely important project. Please feel free to contact me at 916-616-7003 or steve@stevecohn.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Steve Cohn, Chair

San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee