



October 2, 2019

Carl Guardino, President and CEO
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
2001 Gateway Place, Suite 101E
San Jose, CA 95110

Alicia John-Baptiste, President and CEO
SPUR
654 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-4015

Jim Wunderman, President and CEO
Bay Area Council
353 Sacramento Street, 10th Floor
San Francisco CA 94111

RE: Altamont Corridor Vision Phase I Improvement Program
Inclusion in FASTER Bay Area

Dear Carl, Jim, and Alicia,

Save Downtown Stockton Foundation, or SDSF for short, would like to express our strong support for the grant application submitted by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (Altamont Corridor Express [ACE]), Tri-Valley-San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (Valley Link), and San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (San Joaquins) for the \$1.9 billion for the Altamont Corridor Vision Phase I Improvements Program as part of FASTER Bay Area. It is our understanding the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, Bay Area Council, and SPUR are working in partnership to have FASTER Bay Area on the November 2020 ballot for Bay Area voters.

SDSF's Mission:

*To create CATALYST Projects
To REDISCOVER
and SUSTAIN
the Historic HEART
of Downtown Stockton
through Collaboration
and Partnerships!*

The Altamont Corridor that connects the San Joaquin Valley to the Bay Area is one of the most heavily traveled, most congested, and fastest growing corridors in the Northern California Megaregion. The Bay Area Council estimates that congestion will increase an additional 75% between 2019 and 2040. To achieve state and regional environmental and economic development goals, a robust passenger rail alternative is needed in the Altamont Corridor to increase mobility by providing a sustainable transportation option, provide greater connectivity, and a better quality of life and access to jobs, educational opportunities and health care facilities.

SDSF is a local, home-grown, non-profit that is about creating catalyst projects for Downtown Stockton. We have eleven purposes, of which transportation funding and increasing walkability aligns with several: Develop Strategies for Downtown, Seek Funding for Downtown, Build Partnerships, Create a Community Vision for Downtown, Develop Projects, and Promote Sustainability. The proposed project will use rail



infrastructure to better connect travelers to and from the Bay Area with the San Joaquin Valley. The planned improvements to passenger rail service are a cost effective alternative (to driving) and can be implemented efficiently to an existing effective system. This is an incredibly unique and important opportunity to dramatically improve the regional transportation network and transform how Californians move through the Central Valley and beyond.

The Altamont Corridor Vision Phase I Improvement Program is the result of a partnership between ACE, Valley Link and San Joaquin. The Bay Area improvements of this Phase I Program include new alignment through the Altamont to be used by both ACE and Valley Link services. This new alignment through the Altamont Pass would include a tunnel and enable speeds up to 125 mph that would decrease train travel times through the Altamont Pass by as much as 11 – 15 minutes. Bay Area improvements also includes additional infrastructure needed to complete the Valley Link service between Dublin/Pleasanton BART and Livermore. In the near-term, trips would increase to 25 Valley Link daily round-trips between Dublin/Pleasanton BART and North Lathrop Transfer Station in San Joaquin County and two additional ACE round-trips between the San Joaquin Valley and San Jose. The Altamont Corridor Vision Phase I Improvement Program will provide safe, frequent, and reliable regional rail service by modernizing passenger rail in the Altamont Corridor. The vastly improved infrastructure through the Altamont Pass would be separated from freight, double tracked, grade separated, and enable fast (up to 125 mph maximum speeds), and frequent service. The Altamont Corridor Vision Phase I Improvement Program is the first step towards the completion of the Altamont Corridor Vision.

The Altamont Corridor Phase I Improvement Program would:

- **Increase Alternate Modes of Transportation:** Substantially increase regional rail ridership in the Altamont (I-580/I-680) Corridor.
- **Sustainable/Improve Air Quality:** Reduce the amount of greenhouse gases and air pollution emissions by diverting trips that would have previously been taken by an automobile.
- **Improve Commute Opportunities:** Reduce congestion on some of the Bay Area's most congested freeways (I-580/I-680 Corridor).
- **Improve Walkability:** Promote transit-oriented development throughout the Altamont Corridor.

The transformative Altamont Corridor Vision Phase I Improvement Program would have a very positive effect on the Northern California Megaregion's underserved priority and rural communities by providing a convenient and inexpensive alternative to the rising costs of automobile. Connecting these San Joaquin Valley communities to the Bay Area's large economic centers would increase safe and affordable transportation options between these communities. The Vision would also foster more compact and sustainable growth, providing access to affordable housing and a chance to rebalance the job centers equitably. SDSF strongly supports this plan for improved passenger rail. Overall, we see this project as an important strategy to reduce congestion, improve quality of life, and pursue a comprehensive and more sustainable transportation network for Stockton's and San Joaquin Valley's future..

We at SDSF are pleased to provide this letter of strong support of the Altamont Corridor Vision Phase I



Improvement Program and welcome the opportunity to be included to bring new vitality to the heart of Stockton – its Downtown - as part of FASTER Bay Area to help move the Bay Area and the Northern California Megaregion forward.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christina D. B. Frankel".

Christina D. B. Frankel, Co-Founder and Executive Director for SDSF
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On behalf of the SDSF Board and
Marenko MOrgan, President and Linda Derivi, Co-Founder, Secretary/Treasurer