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November 24, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: Support for the 28th Street Multi-modal Rail Crossing Improvements

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Circulate San Diego, whose mission is to create excellent mobility choices and vibrant, healthy neighborhoods, I write to express our strong support for the 28th Street Multi-modal Rail Crossing Improvements Project (the Project) submitted by the San Diego Association of Government for funding consideration through the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program.

Circulate San Diego is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to making our neighborhoods more vibrant and sustainable through better land use planning and the advancement of transportation initiatives that support increased multi-modal options and transportation choice. Through our educational events, training, advocacy, and work with local, county, regional, and transit partners, Circulate San Diego is working to reclaim our streets through improved streetscape design, accessible pedestrian corridors, more bike lanes, better transit routes, and traffic calming measures.

The Project will implement multi-modal improvements to the rail crossing near the intersection of 28th Street and Harbor Drive in the historically low-income and underserved community of Barrio Logan in the City of San Diego. Improvements to the 28th Street rail crossing are a critical last step to completing the Barrio Logan segment of the Bayshore Bikeway, a planned 24-mile bikeway around San Diego Bay that provides a vital connection to major bayfront employers such as Naval Base San Diego (NBSD) and the National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO).

The existing railway crossing signaling system is over 50 years old and does not conform to current signaling safety standards that have been designed to improve the efficiency of multi-modal movements and increase the safety of both rail and roadway users, regardless of mode. The Project will include the installation of new reliable signaling equipment that provides advanced notifications of approaching trains, thereby reducing conflicts between trains and vehicles, enhancing vehicle traffic flow, and enabling cyclists and pedestrians to safely cross 28th Street. New wider ADA compliant walkways connecting NBSD and NASSCO facilities on the west side of Harbor

Drive to the San Diego Trolley Harborside Station on the east side of the crossing will enable workers to use the multi-modal railroad crossing on their way to the trolley station and their homes across the San Diego and Tijuana region. The completion of this segment of the Bayshore Bikeway in Barrio Logan will provide a critical connection in the active transportation network in a community that has long experienced disinvestment and will encourage and support increased pedestrian and biking activity in the South Bay region of San Diego County.

Circulate San Diego strongly supports the 28th Street Multi-modal Rail Crossing Improvements Project. Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Braitman", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dara L. Braitman, AICP
Director of Planning