

Resolution to Advance Public Safety on the Caltrain Corridor

WHEREAS, rail safety is an urgent priority as Caltrain service increases between San Francisco and Gilroy. Caltrain helps combat climate change, reduce congestion, improve mobility, and air quality. Caltrain plans to increase pre-pandemic service from 92 daily trains to 220 daily all-electric commuter trains by 2030, and envisions tripling ridership by 2040. Increased electrified Caltrain service and the development of new affordable and market rate housing along the rail corridor is critical to California's sustainable and economic future.

WHEREAS, Caltrain has 41 "at-grade" crossings along its corridor where railroad tracks intersect with roadways. These crossings severely threaten public safety. San Mateo County is home to three of the California Public Utilities Commission's top ten highest priority at-grade crossings to fix because of their dangerous geometry and sobering accident records: Burlingame Broadway (#1), Redwood City Whipple Avenue (#5), and Menlo Park Ravenswood Avenue (#7.) Trains currently travel up to 79 MPH while some electric trains will reach 110 MPH along the Caltrain corridor within the next decade. On August 17, 2021 another tragic collision occurred at Broadway, bringing the total number of rail-auto collisions at this intersection to 13 since 2015. This particular accident caused a fatality.

WHEREAS, grade separation projects fix this public safety problem by eliminating conflicts between trains and other vehicles. They also improve mobility for pedestrians and cyclists, air quality from fewer idling cars sitting in traffic during gate downtimes, economic justice from the creation of high-quality construction jobs, and advance social justice and quality of life for communities who live near railroad tracks—who often are lower income and transit-dependent. Current costs for Caltrain's grade separation projects range between \$200-\$400 million each, requiring an urgent need for federal and state funding. Caltrain projects \$10 billion is needed to address safety at all 41 at-grade crossings along its corridor.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee strongly supports increased federal and state infrastructure funding. We encourage the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the State of California with its record budget surpluses to prioritize investments in electrified Caltrain, grade separations, and other projects throughout the rail corridor that improve safety and quality of life for our communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee directs the corresponding secretary to transmit official copies of this resolution to the

aforementioned agencies and elected officials representing San Mateo County.