

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, with plans to increase pre-pandemic service from 92 daily trains to 220 daily all-electric commuter trains by 2030, and envisions tripling ridership; and

WHEREAS, Caltrain has 41 “at-grade” crossings along its corridor where railroad tracks intersect with roadways, severely threatening public safety, with trains traveling up to 79 MPH, and three of the California Public Utilities Commission’s top ten highest priority at-grade crossings to fix because of their dangerous configuration and sobering accident records are located in San Mateo County, specifically Burlingame Broadway (#1), Redwood City Whipple Avenue (#5), and Menlo Park Ravenswood Avenue (#7); and

WHEREAS, grade separation projects address this public safety problem by eliminating conflicts between trains and other vehicles and 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 quality of life for communities who live near railroad tracks who often are lower income and transit-dependent; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, with current costs for Caltrain corridor grade separation projects ranging between \$200-\$400 million each, urgently requiring federal and state funding, and projections that \$10 billion is needed to address safety at all 41 at-grade crossings along the corridor, the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee strongly supports increased federal and state infrastructure funding, and encourages the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the State of California with its record budget surpluses to prioritize investments in these grade separations and other projects throughout the rail corridor that improve safety and quality of life for our communities; and

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.

6 yes