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**as of 3-31-2020**

**From:** Cecilia Conley  
**To:** [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#); [Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Jason Baker](#); [Stephen Tu](#); [Matthew Quevedo](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of Support - Caltrain Sales Tax Measure Item #B-3  
**Date:** Monday, March 30, 2020 5:02:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [SVLG support letter for SMCTD 04.01.20 meeting.pdf](#)

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Good afternoon,

Please find attached to this email the Silicon Valley Leadership Group's Letter of Support for Finance Item #B-3: Member Agency Approval of Caltrain Sales Tax Ballot Measure Under Senate Bill 797. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Cecilia

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March 30, 2020

The SMCTD Board  
1250 San Carlos Avenue  
San Carlos, CA 94070

**Re: Caltrain 1/8-cent sales tax on the November 2020 ballot (Finance Item #B-3)**

Dear Chair Matsumoto and the San Mateo County Transit District Board,

**The Silicon Valley Leadership Group strongly recommends that the San Mateo County Transit District Board approve placing the 1/8-cent sales tax on the November 2020 ballot (Finance Item #B-3).**

Today this board has the chance to take an important next step in transformative change for Caltrain and the region it serves. We strongly urge you to approve this resolution to allow voters the chance to invest in more high-quality transit in this critical and unique corridor.

The revenue created by this 1/8-cent sales tax will finally allow Caltrain the dedicated source of operating funds it has long been without. The funding will support Caltrain's projected tripling of growth to 180,000 daily riders or more, and Caltrain's Long Range Service Vision. This funding will also be used for needed infrastructure improvements for increased speeds, and will allow for the completion of important connections, such as the Dumbarton rail link to the East

Bay.

A new poll conducted by the Leadership Group in January 2020 shows 68% of respondents expressing support for the potential measure. This is consistent with four previous polls, each exceeding the critical 2/3 level. Additional polling will be needed when the global health and economic situation is more clear.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group was founded in 1978 by David Packard of Hewlett Packard. Today, the Leadership Group is driven by more than 350 member companies to proactively tackle issues to improve our communities and strengthen our economy, with a focus on an array of policy areas including transportation.

We continue to encourage Caltrain to evolve to maximum ridership to the fullest extent practicable, and to continue to move towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These changes will bring relief from crippling traffic congestion and related pollution that we experience along this corridor. To achieve Caltrain's appropriately ambitious goals for ridership and GHG reduction, Caltrain needs a sustainable revenue source.



Adopting this resolution will provide Caltrain with the resources needed to deliver successful outcomes throughout the corridor as a whole, and will ensure that Caltrain is able to be the high quality transit corridor with the regional capacity that can help fuel the economic growth of our region.

Thank you for your leadership. A much more efficient, effective Caltrain system will improve our quality of life, access to economic opportunity, and the health of our planet.

Sincerely,

*Jason T. Baker ICC*