



SamTrans Board of Directors
Meeting July 8, 2026

Correspondence as of June 18, 2026

Subject

1. Letter of Support re: Support for Caltrain's Next Generation Train Control System Project
FY 2025-2026 CRISI Grant Application



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026

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June 22, 2026

The Honorable David Armstrong Fink
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE W-32
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support for Caltrain's Next Generation Train Control System Project FY 2025-2026 CRISI Grant Application

Dear Administrator Fink,

On behalf of the **San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans)**, I am writing in support of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board's (Caltrain) application to the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program for the **Next Generation Train Control System Project: Improving Corridor-Wide Safety and Reliability through Rail Operations Control System (ROCS) and Back Officer Server (BOS) Modernization**.

Caltrain is seeking \$23 million in CRISI funding, representing 64 percent of the total project cost, to replace aging core train control systems, with a modern, fully vendor-supported architecture. This investment will enhance safety, improve operational reliability, and position one of California's busiest passenger rail corridors for long-term service growth.

Safety is the central rationale for this project. The ROCS serves as the operational hub through which Caltrain dispatchers monitor train movements in real time, authorize operations, and coordinate incident response. The Positive Train Control (PTC) Back Office Server is equally essential, supporting the automatic enforcement systems designed to prevent train collisions and overspeed events. With both systems nearing the end of vendor support, timely replacement of this critical technology is necessary to maintain safe and dependable rail operations.

Modernizing ROCS and the PTC Back Office Server will reduce risks by replacing obsolete systems before failure occurs, strengthening system redundancy so backup capabilities are immediately available when needed, and improving dispatcher situational awareness through updated interface tools. Together, these upgrades will help reduce the potential for human error and improve safety for passengers, employees, and communities along the corridor.

SamTrans supports this project because Caltrain is a vital part of the Peninsula's interconnected transportation network. Many of the communities we serve rely on transit to access jobs, schools, services,

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The Honorable David Armstrong Fink

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and destinations throughout the region. Investments that strengthen Caltrain's safety and reliability also strengthen the broader transit network in San Mateo County and across the region, benefitting our shared riders.

This project is also a prudent state-of-good-repair investment. Replacing these systems before they fail – rather than responding to costly emergency outages – reflects responsible stewardship of public infrastructure and aligns directly with the CRISI Program's goals of modernizing core rail assets and sustaining critical PTC systems.

Thank you for your consideration of this project. Please contact Government and Community Affairs Director, Jessica Epstein, at EpsteinJ@samtrans.com if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you for your consideration of this vital initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "April Chan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

April Chan
General Manager/CEO

CC: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors