Attachment B

TAMC

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY
FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

Regional Transportation Planning Agency • Congestion Management Planning
Local Transportation Commission • Monterey County Service Authority for Freeways & Expressways

March 21, 2007

Convener Fred Keeley
Transportation Funding Task Force
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-3911

Subject: Santa Cruz contribution to Pajaro/ Watsonville Junction Station

Dear Mr. Keeley:

On behalf of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), I am writing to thank the Santa Cruz County Transportation Funding Task Force for voting on March 13, 2007 to include $10 million in the local transportation sales tax expenditure plan for the construction of the Pajaro Valley/ Watsonville Junction station.

TAMC is proposing to extend Caltrain commuter rail service from its existing terminus in Gilroy south to Pajaro/Watsonville, Castroville and Salinas, with a projected start-of-service date of 2010. New rail service will help residents get to jobs, health care and education in San Jose, Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area conveniently, safely and cheaply, while avoiding traffic jams.

At your March 13 meeting, a question was asked about cost per passenger mile of rail versus bus. We are currently revising a draft Alternatives Analysis on the project, and have this data for the Highway 101 corridor between Salinas and San Francisco. The capital cost of the Caltrain Extension to Monterey County project, annualized, per passenger mile is 18.4¢, as compared to the Express Bus option at 18.9¢. Net public operating and maintenance cost per passenger mile for the rail project is 3¢, as compared to 13.5¢ for the bus option. Enclosed is a table with this data. For further information, the draft Alternatives Analysis can be found online at http://www.tamcmonterey.org/programs/rail/index.html.

Thank you again to the task force for supporting a $10 million investment in this regional rail project. Showing regional support through this recommendation will help this project compete for federal "New Starts" funds. I appreciate the attention that you and the task force have bestowed upon our proposed project and look forward to continuing our counties' collaborative relationship.

Sincerely,

Debra L. Hale
Executive Director

Enclosure

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Copy: Transportation Agency for Monterey County Board of Directors

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