

# Peninsula Cities Consortium

**Atherton      Burlingame**  
**Belmont      Menlo Park**  
**Palo Alto**

Joint Hearing of the  
California State Senate's Transportation & Housing Committee  
chaired by Senator Lowenthal  
and  
Budget Subcommittee #2 on Resources, Environmental  
Protection, Energy and Transportation  
chaired by Senator Simitian

January 21, 2009

**High Speed Rail**

# Accomplishments of the PCC

- The PCC has been the most active and constructive coalition of cities in the state
- Local government, stakeholders, citizens and professionals work to educate and problem solve
- First group of cities to identify the fundamental flaws in the Business Plan
- Successfully advocated the adoption of the Context Sensitive Solution (CSS) process for the Peninsula segment
  - First use of CSS on a rail project ever in the US

# Peninsula Segment issues parallel the State issues

- Process problems are causing unintended consequences
- Large fundamental issues remain
  - Business Model: Private Franchise or Public Agency?
  - Inaccurate Ridership Estimates
  - Funding gap and legally prohibited subsidies
  - Heavy reliance on “hoped for” Federal funds
  - No resolution to freight co-existence issues
  - No assessment of the impacts on local and regional transit operations (e.g. Caltrain)

# Inadequate Ridership Study

- **Problem**

- ▣ Fundamentally flawed foundation

- **Ask**

- ▣ Independent Investment Grade Ridership Study

- **Process Improvement**

- ▣ Require sound Ridership Study and Business Plan before additional funding

# Daily Boardings Comparison

Station	Amtrak 2008	Amtrak 2035*
New York	11,971	17,957
Washington	6,151	9,226
Philadelphia	5,436	8,153
Boston	3,614	5,421
Baltimore	1,397	2,096
New Haven	966	1,449
Newark	930	1,395
Providence	833	1,249
<b>Total system boardings</b>	<b>31,297</b>	<b>46,946</b>

Station	CA HSR 2035
San Francisco	24,100
Anaheim	23,500
Los Angeles	14,100
Palmdale	12,900
San Jose	7,600
Merced	5,300
Gilroy	4,700
Redwood City	3,900
<b>Total system boardings</b>	<b>120,700</b>

*\* Assumes a 50% increase in ridership*

*Sources: Amtrak Northeast Corridor Report, Feb 2009 and CA HSR 2009 Business Plan*

# Business Plan Issues

## □ **Problem**

- ▣ Construction budget for the Peninsula is inadequate to address the needs of HSR in our urban corridor

## □ **Ask**

- ▣ Re-do business plan to make success possible
- ▣ What type of Business is it: Franchise or State Agency?
- ▣ Correct deficiencies identified by LAO
- ▣ Disclose accurate information about what the Peninsula construction funds can achieve

## □ **Process Improvement**

- ▣ Business plan should be re-written and approved before any further funding goes toward engineering.
- ▣ A new governing board of top professionals with mega-project expertise and full accountability

# Independent Peer Review

## □ **Problem**

- Oversight envisioned by AB3034 not yet implemented

## □ **Ask**

- Direct the Authority (HSRA) to provide funds needed for Independent Peer Review to perform its critical responsibilities
- Complete the appointment of the members of the Independent Peer Review immediately

## □ **Process Improvement**

- Clarify the role of the Peer Review Committee and require their oversight earlier
- Require quarterly reports of Independent Peer Review to legislature

# Outreach

## □ **Problem**

- HSRA has obstructed the timely release of information to stakeholders

## □ **Ask**

- HSRA should officially commit to CSS on the Peninsula and abide by its results
- HSRA should use CSS for the new EIR in the greater Bay Area

## □ **Process Improvement**

- HSRA should adopt Context Sensitive Solutions state-wide



# Timeline Issues

## □ **Problem**

- The current federal funding timeline is driving the project toward failure
- Rushed commitment to a date-certain undermines the integrity of the CEQA process and successful project planning

## □ **Ask**

- Legislature and Governor should request extending stimulus deadlines

# Conclusions

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- This project is crucial for the future of mass transit in California
- This is the most significant project in the history of the Peninsula
- California cannot afford a \$50 billion failure
- Collaboration is the key to success

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- For more information, please visit the PCC website:

[www.peninsularail.com](http://www.peninsularail.com)