



March 2, 2017

Secretary Elaine Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Palo Alto Transportation Management Association is writing to urge you to approve immediate Federal funding for the Caltrain electrification project.

The economies and communities from San Francisco to San Jose are depending on electrification of the Caltrain rail system to accommodate the growing number of commuters and residents who depend on Caltrain service in this heavily congested corridor. **Caltrain is already at capacity and only electrification will allow it to grow by increasing frequency and speeds.**

We regret that the separate politics of high speed rail has stalled \$647 million in Federal funding for this much-needed project. Local, regional and state funding for electrification, combined with the Federal grant, fully funds this important regional project. At this point, delays increase costs and slow the completion of this badly needed and long-awaited project, which is one of the most congested corridors in the country.

The Palo Alto TMA represents over 800 businesses and 10,000 employees within walking distance of the Palo Alto Caltrain station who rely on Caltrain.

Thank you.

Rob George
Chairman, Palo Alto TMA