

July 20, 2020

President Norman Yee  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl #244,  
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Caltrain 1/8-cent sales tax ballot measure urgency ordinance

Dear President Yee,

Regarding the July 20 letter to you from Mayor Adrian Fine of Palo Alto, I'd like to clarify that neither the City of Palo Alto nor the City Council has any position on the proposed Caltrain sales tax increase. Despite its claims, the letter represents the position of Mayor Fine individually and does not carry any more weight than the position of any other member of our City Council. If it is represented to be more than an individual position, then the letter would be contrary to the authority of the mayor under our city charter.

Speaking on my own behalf, I strongly support a modernized, electrified Caltrain and want to find solutions to ensure its long term success, including potential improvements to its governing structure, and the most effective operational plan during the severe disruptions of the pandemic and beyond. I believe we need both stable funding for Caltrain and governance changes, but putting the tax on the ballot now is an issue that we, as a Council, have not yet discussed.

I recommend that the Caltrain board engage with the cities along the corridor to explore the best response to the impacts of the Covid19 emergency on their capital and strategic plans, and whether this presents an opportunity to accelerate Caltrain modernization and prepare Caltrain for greater success as we return to normal.

As a council member in the city with the second highest Caltrain ridership outside of San Francisco, I would welcome the opportunity to be more directly involved in the governance and long term strategy planning for Caltrain.

Let's work together to find solutions for Caltrain that consider our current environment, appropriate funding sources, and sound, representative governance.

Sincerely,

*Thomas Edward DuBois*

Tom DuBois  
Vice Mayor  
City of Palo Alto

Cc: Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board  
San Francisco Mayor London Breed  
San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo  
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors  
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors  
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors  
San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors  
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Agency Board of Directors