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Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart, thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you as the subcommittee works to provide appropriations for transportation, housing, and urban development projects in fiscal year 2022.

For the first time in two decades, the American Society of Civil Engineers has assessed U.S. infrastructure and given the country a grade that is above the D range. Nationally, our infrastructure finally is at a C-minus, and, under your leadership, we can ensure the country builds back better.

My home state of California is the fifth largest economy in the world. Leading into the COVID-19 crisis, California had 118 consecutive months of job growth, grew its GDP by a percentage point more than the national average, and sustained four million small businesses. Though my state takes its hits in headlines, California is poised to lead the nation in transportation innovation, housing policy, and urban and sustainable development. Today, my state's transportation system connects 40 million people with jobs, housing, and opportunity. Over the next 30 years, that number will grow to 45 million people.

California has set ambitious and innovative goals to connect people safely, reduce carbon emissions from transportation to 80 percent below 1990 levels by developing low-or-no-carbon transit solutions, and ensure transportation systems support low-cost housing and equitable development.

As you continue to develop appropriations legislation, I respectfully request that you include important projects in California—both large and small—that will support jobs, grow the region’s economy, make our communities safer, and reduce homelessness.

One of most important transportation projects for the Northern California Megaregion, part of which I’m honored to represent, is Valley Link, which is a 42-mile, 7-station passenger rail line that will connect people to housing and jobs. Valley Link is an example of how California is leading the way on equitably connecting communities with jobs, growing the economy, and promoting sustainability. In my community project funding requests, I asked for \$5 million for Valley Link, as did Rep. Josh Harder, a colleague of yours on the Appropriations Committee.

Valley Link spans three congressional districts and will establish rail connectivity between the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system in the San Francisco Bay area and Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) commuter rail in Alameda County, California—linking nearly 500 miles of commuter and intercity rail with more than 130 stations in the Northern California Megaregion. Valley Link will

- connect the region’s workforce to affordable housing,
- provide a public transit option for the 97,900 San Francisco Bay Area workers living in San Joaquin County who drive to work,
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 30,000 metric tons by 2040,
- promote equity by serving disadvantaged and low-income communities in Northern San Joaquin County,
- provide an estimated 22,000 jobs during construction,
- and support up to 400 jobs a year.

Valley Link will be a national model of environmental sustainability by utilizing new and emerging net-zero technologies, including hydrogen powered trains, and electric shared autonomous vehicles, to directly serve some of the state's most disadvantaged communities.

With the \$5 million investment I requested along with Congressman Harder for the Valley Link Sustainability Blueprint, this subcommittee can help connect jobs, workers, and communities. The Sustainability Blueprint will transform this new passenger rail line into a national model of environmental sustainability and support service expansion to some of the state's most disadvantaged communities.

In addition to advancing Valley Link's Sustainability Blueprint, I respectfully request that you help make communities in the East Bay of California better for children and families by providing:

- \$1.7 million for the Alameda County Transportation Commission's Safe Routes to Schools Mini-Grant Program, which will provide grants to support bicycle and pedestrian safety and access improvements around Alameda County school sites;
- \$2 million to finalize the blueprint for a bicycle and pedestrian bridge at the intersection of Crow Canyon Road and the popular Iron Horse recreation trail in San Ramon, where multiple people have died;
- \$1 million to build Veterans Park in downtown Livermore, which would be located alongside a 130-unit affordable housing development that is underway;
- \$1.5 million for The Stack Center in Hayward, which will provide wraparound health, education, recreational, and career training services to address inequities in the South Hayward community; and

- \$750 thousand for Covenant House California Hayward Village, to complete construction of a 30-bed emergency housing facility for youth.

These smart and equitable projects span my congressional district and would be models for funding transportation, housing, and development for twenty-first-century communities. And they have all have local community support. Thank you for your attention and for considering these critical investments. I look forward to working with you on moving these projects forward.