



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

March 27, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C., 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to request full consideration of the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) application to the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Corridor Identification and Development Program in order to support the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor. Caltrans plans to use the requested funds to initiate LOSSAN's corridor development efforts, including the development of the scope, schedule, and cost estimate for preparing a service development plan for the LOSSAN Corridor.

The LOSSAN line is a vital component of California's transportation system. Spanning 351-miles through a six-county region in Southern California, it is the second busiest intercity passenger rail corridor in the United States and the busiest state-supported Amtrak route. Furthermore, Metrolink, Coaster, and Burlington Northern Santa Fe provide commuter and freight rail services in various parts of the corridor. The rail corridor is also part of the Strategic Rail Corridor Network, which is crucial to national defense. By providing a necessary alternative to car and truck travel on adjacent freeways, the LOSSAN corridor also reduces traffic congestion and benefits the environment.

Through known capital improvements and those identified through the proposed service development plan, along with much-needed bluff and slope stabilization and resiliency projects, service levels are expected to increase. Caltrans' application will fulfill several of the Corridor ID Program's goals of guiding the development of intercity passenger rail and creating a pipeline of projects for implementation. The application will also support the Department of Transportation's strategic goals of improving safety, fostering infrastructure investment and job creation, providing economic opportunity, promoting equity, prioritizing sustainability, and leading to transformation.

I appreciate your full and fair consideration of this application. Please contact me or my staff if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Levin".

Mike Levin
Member of Congress