



# North Los Angeles County Transportation Coalition

## Remarks by NCTC JPA Executive Director Arthur Sohikian to the California High-Speed Rail Authority Draft Project Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement Bakersfield to Palmdale Section Virtual Public Hearing, April 23, 2020, 3-8pm.

Dear Mr. Kelly and CHSRA Staff:

On behalf of the North Los Angeles County Transportation Coalition JPA (NCTC), I speak in **support of the Bakersfield to Palmdale Section of the California High-Speed Rail Project.**

The **NCTC JPA**, representing Los Angeles County 5<sup>th</sup> District North LA County region, City of Palmdale, City of Lancaster, and the City of Santa Clarita, voted their **unanimous support for this section** at their July 22, 2019 Board of Governors meeting and we appreciate the working relationship with CHSRA Staff.

The NCTC supports Alternative 2 with CCNM (Cesar Chavez National Monument) Design Options as depicted in the Draft Project Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/DEIS). With the release of the DEIR/DEIS Bakersfield to Palmdale Section on February 28, 2020, the Cities of **Lancaster and Palmdale and the Los Angeles County Public Works & Regional Planning Departments have additional detailed comments and/or mitigation requests.**

The NCTC JPA **strongly urges the CHSRA Staff carefully consider** Lancaster, Palmdale and LA County Public Works & Regional Planning comments and mitigation requests as you prepare the **Final Bakersfield to Palmdale Section EIR/EIS.**

In closing, **CalSTA** announced this week the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program, **TIRCP, \$107 million Grant Award** to the **Metro/Metrolink Antelope Valley Line Capital and Service Improvements** project (AVL). The NCTC JPA Board has allocated over \$116 million, roughly 53% of the total \$220.85 million AVL Improvement project costs. As a funding partner, the NCTC has been working with **Metro, Metrolink and CalSTA** on the projects including the Lancaster Terminal Improvements at the Lancaster Metrolink station.

**The NCTC strongly urges CHSRA Staff collaborate with Metro and Metrolink on the Lancaster Metrolink Station Terminal Improvements to avoid duplicative efforts and potential expensive delays.**

We look forward to working with you and your staff throughout the environmental clearance process to make high-speed rail a reality for North Los Angeles County. You can contact me at [sohikian@northcountytransportationcoalition.org](mailto:sohikian@northcountytransportationcoalition.org) or at (213) 379-1551.

Thank You,  
Arthur V. Sohikian  
Executive Director  
North County Transportation Coalition JPA  
CC: NCTC JPA Board of Governors  
CHSRA Board of Directors  
Metro Regional Rail and Countywide Planning  
Metrolink Strategic Planning