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VTA's Board Approves MOU to Change Caltrain Governance

SAN JOSE, CA – The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Board of Directors voted at its regular Board meeting Thursday, August 4, 2022, to approve a memorandum of understanding (MOU) of new governance for Caltrain that will give San Francisco and Santa Clara counties more power and governance oversight of the peninsula commuter train service.

It establishes a separate, permanent Caltrain Executive Director who reports exclusively to, and takes direction from, the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB), which exercises authority over the selection, hiring, annual goal setting, performance review, compensation, and termination of the Caltrain Executive Director.

As a negotiated settlement for the governance transition, the MOU also includes a commitment for VTA to pay \$9,120,000 within twelve (12) months of execution of the MOU (August 2022) to compensate San Mateo County Transportation District.

The San Mateo County Transit District will no longer have sole final discretionary appointing power of an executive director, general counsel, and auditor for Caltrain.

A majority of the Caltrain board will now decide on the Executive Director, and Caltrain will maintain its own General Counsel and Auditor separate from SamTrans.

The SamTrans Board of Directors voted to accept the MOU on June 21. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved the MOU on July 26.

About VTA

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is an independent special district responsible for bus, light rail and paratransit operations; and serves as the county's congestion management agency.