



November 16, 2016

Mayor Steve Tate
Morgan Hill City Council
City of Morgan Hill
17555 Peak Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Re: November 16, 2016 Agenda Item no. 11, Issues and Questions for High Speed Rail Project
Scoping Letter

Mayor Tate,

The Morgan Hill Downtown Association Board of Directors recognizes that the California High-Speed Rail (CHSR) passing through Morgan Hill will be one of the most important issues faced by our community in generations. There is no escaping the hardship this will create for those in the path of the high-speed rail tracks, both homeowners and businesses, and it is destined to pass somewhere through our town.

As business owners and residents in Morgan Hill we want what we feel is best for the entire community and not just the district we serve.

It has been the past position of the Morgan Hill City Council to support the CHSR alignment that would not follow the Union Pacific Rail Road (UPRR) tracks and the portions of Monterey Road to the east of the UPRR tracks. Our position is in line with past City Council resolutions but the recently proposed West of 101 alignment is preferred by the MHDA Board.

The UPRR/Monterey Road alignment would require the relocation of hundreds of homes and businesses. This alignment now includes so much new development that after the HSR Authority saw how much had taken place since their first surveys they have expressed that they too feel it may no longer be their preferred alignment.

Our preferred alignment is one the entire community can be proud of as being one we in Morgan Hill initiated. In meetings with CHSR Staff they repeated that "we know our community best" and this is confirmed in this alignment.

The West of 101 alignment will disrupt the fewest number of businesses and homes. This alignment also addresses another critical aspect of the CHSR not as frequently discussed, construction impacts.

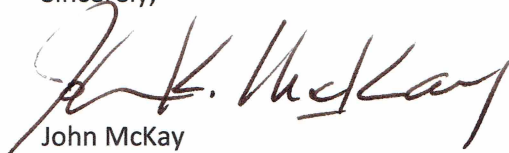
Construction impacts could be felt for as long as 4 years. Construction down the spine of Morgan Hill along the UPRR/Monterey Road alignment could be crippling because of the relocation of Monterey Road (north of the UPRR bridge near Cochrane Road) and the numerous individual crossings and entire sections of roads that will be closed or relocated. There will still be unbearable disruption along the West of 101 alignment but there will be less.

Regardless of alignment we also want to state that any at grade track installation, with corresponding sound walls, is not welcome in any part of Morgan Hill. Any wall dividing our community can easily be viewed as such and we do not want to create any division in our community as well as being subject to the potentially unsightly wall.

We all recognize the enormity of the issue at hand and hope we have helped provide the confidence to position our community well in the ongoing discussions with the California High-Speed Rail Authority.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John McKay", written over a horizontal line.

John McKay
President

Morgan Hill Downtown Association