



**Nevada Rail Coalition**  
**nevadarailcoalition.org**

March 14, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Nevada Rail Coalition, we are writing in support of the Nevada Department of Transportation and Brightline West's Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Established in 2021, the Nevada Rail Coalition is a citizen-based initiative that brings together unions, environmental organizations, passenger/freight rail advocacy associations, social justice organizations, and community associations for the purpose of building an expanded, robust rail system in Nevada and neighboring states as the keystone of a low-carbon, environmentally sustainable and socially just transportation system.

Las Vegas - Nevada's largest city, home to 87% of the state's population, and a destination for 38.8 million visitors annually - currently has no passenger rail service. When completed, the Brightline West high-speed route between southern California and Las Vegas will provide key access to rail transportation to a growing, diverse population now critically unserved by passenger rail. Brightline West will serve as a powerful example of the possibilities of high-speed rail for other cities and regions and is well-positioned to advance the U.S. Department of Transportation's priorities related to multi-generational infrastructure investments, job creation, equity, and climate change resiliency and sustainability.

Brightline West will connect Las Vegas and Southern California through planned stations in Las Vegas and San Bernardino County, with connectivity into Los Angeles County through Metrolink. The project will bolster additional economic activity for the region, with \$10 billion in economic impact and \$1 billion in tax revenue. Brightline West will create over 35,000 construction jobs and approximately 1,000 permanent jobs, creating pathways for workforce development, training, and access to quality jobs. This includes a commitment to ensure the creation of good-paying union jobs. As seen through other transit

areas, the development of a new transit system will provide opportunities for ancillary development around station areas, spurring additional economic activity for communities along the corridor.

The system will also align with the administration's climate goals – which the Nevada Rail Coalition shares - by diverting millions of automobile users from I-15 onto a faster, more efficient, zero-emission transportation option. Each year, Brightline West operations will remove an estimated 3 million vehicles and over 700 million vehicle miles traveled from the highway, as well as 400,000 tons of CO2 emissions from the atmosphere, supporting California's and Nevada's respective greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals and leading the way for cleaner travel options for Americans.

For the above reasons, the Nevada Rail Coalition is pleased to support this application.

Sincerely,

Anne Macquarie  
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