# ***PRESS RELEASE***

## TJPA SECURES $750 MILLION STATE AWARD FOR THE PORTAL, ADVANCING A SEAMLESS RAIL CONNECTION BETWEEN SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES

*Landmark Investment Represents A Major Step Towards Bringing Caltrain And Future High-Speed Rail Service Directly Into Salesforce Transit Center*

**San Francisco, CA** – The Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA), owner and operator of the Salesforce Transit Center, today, along with California Transportation Agency Secretary Toks Omishakin, announced and celebrated the State of California's award of $750 million through the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) for The Portal, the key regional rail connection that will connect Caltrain and future California High-Speed Rail service directly to the multimodal Salesforce Transit Center in downtown San Francisco.
The multi-year award marks a major milestone for one of California's most important transportation infrastructure projects and moves the state closer to realizing a seamless passenger rail connection between Northern and Southern California. The funding also brings The Portal closer to leveraging the $3.38 billion commitment from the Federal Transit Administration Capital Investments Grant program.

"We're building a transportation system worthy of California's future," **said California State Transportation Agency Secretary Toks Omishakin.** "The Portal is more than a rail project. It's a powerful investment in connection, opportunity, and climate action that brings us one step closer to a fully integrated rail network linking the Bay Area, the Central Valley, and Southern California. By connecting our communities and economy, we're building on historic investments under Governor Newsom's leadership and creating more mobility opportunities for Californians across the state."

"For decades, I've taken pride in fighting to bring federal dollars home to San Francisco to build the world-class public transit our city deserves," **said Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi.** "Those federal investments have helped make the Salesforce Transit Center possible and laid the groundwork for The Portal to bring passenger rail into the heart of San Francisco. California's $750 million investment builds on that work and brings us closer to delivering on the promise of the Transbay Transit Center."

"California's future depends on building more housing near high-quality transit and giving people better ways to move throughout our region," **said Congressman-elect Scott Wiener**. "The Portal will connect Caltrain directly to the Salesforce Transit Center, making our transportation system more efficient while supporting new homes near transit, economic opportunity, and cleaner ways to travel. This award helps move a critical piece of California's rail network closer to completion."

"Public transit is fundamental to San Francisco's economy. It connects people to jobs, visitors to our neighborhoods, and children to our schools," **said San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie**. "As we bring more people back downtown, we need to make it easier for people from across the Bay Area to get here—and that's what The Portal will help us accomplish. This is a project that has been decades in the making, and it presents a major investment in our city's future. Thank you Governor Newsom and Transportation Secretary Omishakin for your leadership in moving this project forward."

"Today’s $750 million state investment is a game-changing commitment to San Francisco’s future," **said San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Rafael Mandelman**. "It sends a clear message: California is betting on downtown San Francisco, and we are building the infrastructure needed to power the next generation of growth."

"The Portal will finally connect rail service to downtown San Francisco and complete a critical link in California's rail network," **said Jeff Gee, Chair of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors and Caltrain Board of Director**. "With this state commitment, the TJPA and our partners can continue advancing key tasks such as design, preconstruction and procurement, which are critical activities needed to prepare for construction. We are closer than ever to delivering a world-class rail connection that will redefine mobility in Northern California and strengthen California's statewide rail network.”

“This award is a victory for working people and a major step forward for San Francisco's economic future,” **said Rudy Gonzalez, Secretary-Treasurer of the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council**. “The Portal will create thousands of high-quality union jobs, providing family-supporting wages, apprenticeships, and career opportunities for local residents while building the infrastructure our region needs to thrive. This is exactly the kind of project that puts people to work, strengthens our communities, and delivers lasting benefits for generations.”

“Today's award is great news for California's skilled trades workforce,” **said Sean McGarry, Business Representative of Carpenters Local Union 22**. “The Portal will generate years of construction employment and create opportunities for the next generation of union carpenters to learn their craft while building one of the most important transportation projects in the state. These are careers that support families and strengthen local communities, and we're ready to get to work.”

In 2023, the California State Transportation Agency recognized the importance of this project by awarding $60 million in TIRCP Cycle 6 Project Development Reserve funding. Coupled with this $750 million award for The Portal ($100 million over the next two years to advance preconstruction engineering and design and the balance of $650 million in multi-year construction funding), it further cements the State’s commitment to advancing this important project and realizing the environmental and public transportation goals the State of California has long pursued.

The Portal will extend passenger rail approximately 1.3 miles from the existing Caltrain station at Fourth and King streets into the Salesforce Transit Center, creating a direct connection between regional rail, local transit, and future high-speed rail. Once completed, passengers will be able to travel more efficiently throughout the Bay Area while laying the foundation for one-seat rail trips between downtown San Francisco and Southern California.

In addition to supporting the state's long-term high-speed rail vision, the project will deliver immediate benefits for Caltrain riders by improving network connectivity, reducing travel times to downtown San Francisco, and increasing access to jobs, housing, and other destinations throughout the region.

The project benefits include:

- Reduction in Greenhouse Gases. It is estimated to result in a personal automobile vehicle miles-traveled (VMT) reduction of 9 billion and an associated reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) of 3,388,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.

- Reduce Travel Time. The direct connection to the highest concentration of jobs in Northern California through the Transit Center will eliminate the need for passengers to transfer at the existing Caltrain terminus at 4th and King streets, saving up to 60 minutes in additional travel time.

- Enhance Multimodal Connections. The Portal is the final addition to one of the most ambitious multimodal projects in the country and is identified as part of the State's rail plan and vision. It will fully integrate the Bay Area's transportation system and provide a critical connection to the rest of the State of California through eleven transportation systems: AC Transit, BART, Caltrain, Golden Gate Transit, Greyhound, Muni, SamTrans, WestCAT Lynx, Amtrak, San Francisco Paratransit, and California high-speed rail. It is an unprecedented degree of seamless transit connections that drives the environmental, ridership, and safety benefits described throughout this application.

- Improving Safety. The Portal will improve safety through moving people out of their cars and onto transit, reducing VMT, which will in turn result in fewer automobile-related injuries and fatalities.

The $750 multi-year funding award reflects years of partnership among federal, state, regional, and local agencies working to advance a transportation investment that serves both the Bay Area and California as a whole. The Portal is a foundational component of the state's vision for an integrated rail system that links major population centers while expanding access to reliable, sustainable transportation.

The Portal is in an advanced stage of readiness and ripe for unlocking federal support needed to complete the project, which is further bolstered by the State funding investment.

This funding commitment will help meet the non-financial milestone requirements for the request of a Full Funding Grant Agreement and will help the TJPA and its partners advance final design, engineering, and project delivery activities necessary to bring rail service into Salesforce Transit Center and complete the long-planned connection between the Bay Area's premier transit hub and California's broader passenger rail network.

###

About the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA):
*The Transbay Joint Powers Authority is the owner and operator of the multimodal Salesforce Transit Center and is working to extend Caltrain and ultimately, California High-Speed Rail service from 4th and King streets to the Salesforce Transit Center in downtown San Francisco through The Portal.*

*The TJPA Board of Directors is comprised of representatives from the City and County of San Francisco, including the Office of the Mayor, the SF Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and the Board of Supervisors; the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit); the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board-Caltrain, composed of the City and County of San Francisco, the San Mateo County Transit District, and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority; the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA); and, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)*

