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## **PENINSULA RAIL PROGRAM HOLDS WORKSHOP WITH NATIONAL EXPERT ON INNOVATIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

***Burlingame, California*** - The Peninsula Rail Program hosted a community workshop today, unveiling the adoption of Context-Sensitive Solutions (CSS), a collaborative, multi disciplinary approach to develop the San Francisco to San Jose section of the high-speed rail system. Hal Kassoff, a leading national authority on this vital process designed to provide communities an important long-range planning and information tool, led the workshop and community meeting.

The Peninsula Rail Program, a partnership between California High Speed Rail Authority and the Caltrain Joint Powers Board will manage locally this CSS process. CSS is an approach that considers the total context within which this transportation improvement project will exist. The state and the federal environmental work as outlined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will continue on the project in accordance with the law.

Over 100 people representing a broad coalition of civic, homeowner, business, labor, environmental, planning, education, and transportation interests along the corridor attended the workshop and meeting at Burlingame City Hall. The group sought training and information on this advanced process designed to reach better solutions for communities addressing complex transportation projects.

According to Bob Doty, Executive Director of the Peninsula Rail Program, "The project is seeking to balance the competing needs of diverse participants. By determining what is desired, what is feasible with design and engineering and what is achievable within environmental, funding and regulatory constraints, we believe CSS can provide important input in our long-range planning," stated Doty.

The San Francisco to San Jose section is poised to lead the state in utilizing this important informational tool to design and build California's environmentally friendly high-speed train system linking major metropolitan cities.

"The CSS process is one more tool in the tool box. We're excited about the direction of high-speed rail and its integration with Caltrain. We hear the Peninsula loud and clear that their commuter railroad is worthy of the types of enhancements guaranteed by building high-speed rail," stated Project Manager, Dominic Spaethling.

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