Title: High Speed Rail Committee Name Change

Subject: Approval of High Speed Rail Committee Name Change to Rail Committee

From: City Manager

Lead Department: City Manager

Recommendation
The High Speed Rail Committee recommends that the Council approve changing the Committee's name to “Rail Committee.”

Discussion
The High Speed Rail Committee met Thursday, February 3rd. The Committee is recommending to the City Council that the High Speed Rail Committee name be changed to Rail Committee. This change reflects the broader scope of the Committee's discussions on rail which include Caltrain and the short and long-term viability of this critical rail transportation system.

Issuance of the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) Peninsula HSR environmental impact report (EIR) will be delayed up to a year according to a CHSRA February 3, 2011 press release. Therefore, the Committee anticipates that in the near term there will likely be a greater priority on discussion of Caltrain and general rail operations on the Peninsula rather than HSR. Discussion of other rail issues is consistent with the scope and guiding principles originally established for the HSR Committee, which provided that the Committee would advise the Council on HSR as well as “related rail transit matters” and stated the City’s support for “Caltrain and the commuter rail service at present or improved levels of service.” This name change more accurately reflects the scope of the Committee.

On a related matter the Committee also took action to change their meeting schedule from two meetings per month to one meeting per month. The new meetings are to take place the second Thursday of each month.