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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (C):

**History San José Presents**  
*The Way to San José:*  
*Rotary Celebrate the Valley's Transportation History*  
**New Exhibition Space at San Jose Diridon Station**

*San José, CA—October 7, 2010—All Aboard!* At the San Jose Diridon Station! Commuters and non-commuters alike will have the opportunity to view transportation through the ages. Thanks to the Rotary Club of San Jose and History San José (HSJ), CalTrain will unveil the Valley's transportation history exhibit at the San Jose Diridon Station on Tuesday, October 19 from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. The public is welcome.

*The Way to San José* celebrates nearly 100 years of Rotary in San Jose with a focus on transportation in Santa Clara Valley---from the Native Americans to the new expansion of the San Jose Airport and to the BART and high speed rail systems of the future. The museum, a concept of immediate past Rotary president Rod Diridon, Sr., was funded by the Rotary Club of San José and implemented by History San Jose supported by the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation, and the Mineta Transportation Institute.

“Exhibits like this allow History San Jose to show parts of the City's massive historical collection for viewing in public places,” said Alida Bray, President and CEO of History San José. “It is through private and public partnerships like this that the people of the South Bay can enjoy the stories and education of the culture of this valley.”

*The Way to San José* exhibit includes transportation-related historic photographs and artifacts. Presented will be graphic mementos depicting the Native American's foot travel and canoe to the Spanish Californio and early American settlers' horseback and covered wagon migrations, through the early trolley and railroad periods to the current highway and airports including the emerging modern rail systems.

Diridon noted the. “Progressive civilizations must remember the best of the pass to help create a better future. That applies to transportation artifacts as well as to our other unique American institutions.”

Few realize that Alviso was once a very active Port, and boats played an important role during the Gold Rush, as they do with today's 'Boat People' comprising San Jose's thriving Vietnamese culture. The category of planes include Montgomery's first flight to Ernie

Renzel, Jim Nissen and Norm Mineta's contributions to the development of San José International Airport. Trains include the first tracks laid in 1864, to refrigerated rail cars transporting San José's bounty of produce, to San José's future in high speed rail and BART.

The San Jose Diridon Station is located at 65 Cahill Street, near Santa Clara Avenue and Autumn Street, just across Santa Clara Street from the HP Pavilion, and services Amtrak, CalTrain, Capital Trains, the Altamont Express, and VTA.

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#### **About CalTrain:**

The [Peninsula Corridor Joint powers Board \(CalTrain\)](#) consists of three representatives each from San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties acting together to operate and maintain the 98 daily commuter trains between Gilroy and San Francisco. In May of 1863 the counties of San Francisco and Santa Clara sold bonds to build the first west coast rail line, the "San Francisco and San Jose Railroad Company". That 50-mile narrow gage line was expanded to standard gage and passed through several owners. In the mid 1970s the Sothern Pacific Railroad operated an obsolete service carrying less than 10,000 riders daily when the Peninsula Transportation Alternative's Project study successfully encouraged the state to purchase the line and replace the rolling stock. The state transferred ownership to the newly created Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board in the mid 1980 which continues to improve the service now carrying as many as 40,000 riders on weekday. Information on CalTrain can be obtained at [www.caltrain.com](http://www.caltrain.com).

#### **About History San José:**

History San José is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the continuing history of the Santa Clara Valley. HSJ manages one of the largest and most comprehensive regional history collections in the State of California, from 1784 Spanish governmental records to twenty-first century Silicon Valley technology.

History San José aspires to provide innovative national leadership in preserving and sharing regional history by engaging diverse audiences in exploring the varieties of human experience that contribute to the continuing history of San José and the Santa Clara Valley.

#### **About Mineta Transportation Institute**

The [Mineta Transportation Institute](#) (MTI) was established by Congress in 1991 as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) and was reauthorized in 1998 and 2005. The institute is funded by Congress through the US Department of Transportation's (US DOT) Research and Innovative Technology Administration, by the US Department of Homeland Security, and by the California legislature via Caltrans. US DOT selected MTI as a National Center of Excellence following competitions in 2002 and 2006. The internationally respected MTI Board of Trustees represent all major surface transportation modes. MTI's is affiliated with the San José State University College of Business. MTI conducts policy and management research, education, and information transfer programs. Visit [www.transweb.sjsu.edu](http://www.transweb.sjsu.edu)

Information regarding he Rotary Club of San Jose and the California Trolley and Railroad

Corporation can be obtained via, [www.sjrotary.org](http://www.sjrotary.org) and [www.ctrc.org](http://www.ctrc.org) respectively.