



CALIFORNIA High-Speed Rail Authority

Memorandum

Date: May 26, 2022
To: Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG)
From: Boris Lipkin, Northern California Regional Director
Re: California High-Speed Rail Program Update

STATEWIDE UPDATE

Central Valley Construction Tour Visits: FRA Administrator and CalSTA Secretary

The Authority recently welcomed the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Administrator Amit Bose back to the Central Valley. His visit included a tour of the Central Valley Training Center in Selma, CA. He shared a few words with students and encouraged them to continue their efforts as part of the high-speed rail program. Congressman Jim Costa was also in attendance along with Authority Board members Tom Richards and Henry Perea.

California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) Secretary Toks Omishakin also visited the Central Valley in May for the first time since his appointment in February 2022. He and members of the Authority's executive team toured the Central Valley Training Center in Selma, CA before touring construction sites.



2022 Business Plan, LA Union Station Modernization and Central Valley Design

In April, the Authority's Board of Directors adopted the [2022 Business Plan](#) and transmitted it to the California Legislature on May 6. The 2022 Business Plan builds on the Authority's mission and guiding principles, specifically outlining how new funding will allow the Authority to:

- Deliver an electrified, two-track initial operating segment connecting Merced, Fresno and Bakersfield as soon as possible.
- Invest statewide to advance engineering and design work as every project section is environmentally cleared.
- Leverage new federal and state funds for targeted statewide investments that benefit local service providers and advance high-speed rail in California.

The Authority Board [approved a project management and funding agreement](#) with the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority to modernize the historic LA Union Station. These funds will support LA Union Station upgrades such as converting the station from a rail stub-in to a run-through station and reducing idling times by about 40 minutes.

The Authority Board also [approved beginning the station design process](#) in Merced, Fresno, Kings/Tulare, and Bakersfield. The Authority Board approved the release of procurement documents to advance design for the first new high-speed rail stations that will be built in the Central Valley. Advancing design on these stations is key to delivering electrified high-speed rail service by the end of the decade.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA UPDATE

Major Milestone for the San Jose to Merced Project Section

In April, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) Board of Directors certified the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) and unanimously approved the approximately 90-mile San Jose to Merced project section in Northern California. These actions mark the first certification of a project section environmental document in the Northern California region and the first in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Authority Board selected Alternative 4 as the approved project alignment among the four alignment alternatives studied. This alternative modernizes and electrifies the existing rail corridor between San Jose and Gilroy, allowing for both high-speed rail and Caltrain service.



This action completes the environmental clearance for nearly 400 miles of the high-speed rail project's 500-mile Phase 1 alignment from San Francisco to Los Angeles/Anaheim – including a contiguous stretch between Santa Clara County (San Jose) and Los Angeles County (Palmdale) plus January's clearance of the Burbank to Los Angeles section.

You can find the news release [here](#).

Upcoming Release of the San Francisco to San Jose Project Section Final EIR/EIS

The Authority anticipates releasing the Final EIR/EIS for the San Francisco to San Jose project section on June 10, 2022. The EIR/EIS presents the analysis of two alternatives for the infrastructure needed in the Caltrain corridor to run high-speed rail service to San Francisco (along with a no-build option).

The Board of Directors will consider certifying the Final EIR/EIS and approving the Preferred Alternative in this project section during its two-day board meeting August 17 and 18, 2022. If approved by the Authority's Board of Directors, this environmental document will complete full environmental clearance for high-speed rail in Northern California.

Public Outreach Activities

- May 22: Sunday Streets Bay View tabling
- June 4: Sunnyvale Farmers Market tabling

The Spring 2022 edition of the [Small Business Newsletter can be found here](#), featuring a profile of Urban Field Studio, a small business based in San Francisco, CA collaborating with the Authority on high-speed rail station planning in the Central Valley.