



Northern California Regional Update

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) continues its commitment to conduct public outreach. Here are a few updates this month.

[San Francisco to San Jose](#)

[San Jose to Merced](#)

Statewide Update

Governor Brown Talks High-Speed Rail in State of the State Address



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On January 25, Governor Jerry Brown delivered his final State of the State Address. In it, he doubled-down on his support for the high-speed rail program, asserting that Californians have the vision to see the program through to its completion.

Brown said:

"Like any big project, there are obstacles. There were for the Bay Area Rapid Transit System, for the Golden Gate Bridge and for the Panama Canal. But build it they did and build it we will -- America's first high-speed rail system. One link between San Jose and San Francisco -- an electrified Caltrain -- is financed and ready to go. Another billion, with matching funds, will be invested in Los Angeles to improve Union Station as a major transportation hub and fix the Anaheim corridor.

"The next step is completing the Valley segment and getting an operating system connected to San Jose. Yes, it costs lots of money but it is still cheaper and more convenient than expanding airports and building new freeways to meet the growing demand. It will be fast, quiet and powered by renewable electricity and last for a hundred years.

High-speed Rail Authority Names New CEO

As the Authority continues to move from the planning phase to construction of high-speed rail, the Board of Directors announced on January 16 that it has selected a new Chief Executive Officer, Brian P. Kelly, to lead the organization, effective February 1, 2018. Kelly has served as Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency since the Agency was created in 2013. As Secretary, Kelly oversaw one of the largest portfolios in the State of California with more than 38,000 employees and a total budget of more than \$18 billion.



New CEO Brian Kelly was sworn into his position on February 1, 2018.

See our [news release](#) to read why Board Chairman Dan Richard says Kelly will provide the right leadership for the program.

On January 19, Governor Brown also announced the appointed Joseph Hedges to the position of Chief Operating Officer and Pamela Mizukami as Chief Deputy Director. Both of these appointments bring a new level of expertise to the Authority's executive team, and will allow the program to move forward towards delivery.

BART Introduces its "Fleet of the Future" Proposition 1A Funds Used to Help Purchase New Rail Cars



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On January 19, Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) rolled out what it is calling its "Fleet of the Future" in a ceremony that drew political leaders, everyday riders and stakeholders who have waited for years for the system to roll out more efficient rail cars that will ultimately replace cars that have been in use since the system launched service in the September 1972. The sleek, energy-efficient rail cars drew rave reviews – they are quieter, cooler, more comfortable, and featuring a color-coded digital mapping system that informs riders of next stops.

The Authority's \$140 million investment from Proposition 1A connectivity funds is part of its Statewide Rail Modernization program that is designed to invest billions of dollars in infrastructure and rail improvement investments throughout the state. The funds will strengthen and improve existing rail networks, while also connecting them with the high-speed rail system. Ultimately, BART is working to extend their service to San Jose's Diridon Station, allowing for a seamless connection to the high-speed rail system that will run from San Francisco to the Los Angeles.

Central Valley Cost Update

After a detailed cost and risk analysis, the Authority released updated cost estimates for the first 119-miles of construction in California. The Authority anticipates an estimated \$2.8 billion increase to previous estimates, 63% of which is due to risk factors identified and reported in the 2016 Business Plan, the March 2017 Project Update Report and discussed publicly at the Authority's prior Finance and Audit Committee. This revised cost estimate is within state and federal funding dedicated to the Authority to build the nation's first truly high-speed rail system. The Authority will incorporate the revised cost estimates into its 2018 Business Plan due to the Legislature later this spring. In that document, the Authority intends to clarify needs and risks associated with the entire project including overall cost for Silicon Valley to Central Valley and Phase.

San Francisco to San Jose Project Section

In January, Authority staff met with City of Sunnyvale's City Council during a study session. The key topics discussed were: statewide update on project delivery goals; highlights on job and economic impacts of the project, and an update on outreach. The Authority continues to encourage stakeholder engagement throughout the peninsula corridor to advance planning and work towards the identification of the Preferred Alternative. The Authority will conduct public meetings to share the latest information, receive additional community input, and present the project's next steps.

San Jose to Merced Project Section

In January, the Authority, in cooperation with geotechnical consultants, Kleinfelder Inc., and Fugro Consultants, began conducting field work in Santa Clara County and the City of San Jose associated with geotechnical explorations within the Silicon Valley to Central Valley line. This work is being done to determine geologic and hydrogeological conditions near and around locations in close proximity to proposed alignment alternatives under consideration. A final alignment alternative through this area has not yet been selected, and will be done so through a public environmental review process.

All work will be conducted in public right of way but could potentially have road and lane impacts. If so, the Authority will work with the local jurisdiction on alternatives and conduct outreach in the area. Road work information can be found on the Authority's website [here](#) under Road and Construction Alerts.

If you are interested in inviting us to your community meeting to receive a project update, our team would be happy to coordinate with you. Feel free to contact us here:

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Sincerely,

