

# GET THE FACTS:

## CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL

The California High-Speed Rail Authority is responsible for planning, designing, building and operating the first high-speed rail system in the nation. High-speed rail will connect California's mega-regions, starting with the Merced-Fresno-Bakersfield line as the first part of a building block approach. This high-profile project has garnered a lot of publicity leading to speculation and rumor, making it important to separate fact from fiction.

**Myth: High-speed rail is dead in California.**



**Fact:**

In his State of the State Address, Governor Gavin Newsom reaffirmed our commitment to the building block approach laid out in our Project Update Report, beginning with the Merced to Fresno to Bakersfield line.

**We continue to make strides on construction in the Central Valley while moving forward with systemwide environmental clearance and planning in Northern and Southern California.**

**Myth: No one is going to ride high-speed rail if it's just in the Central Valley.**



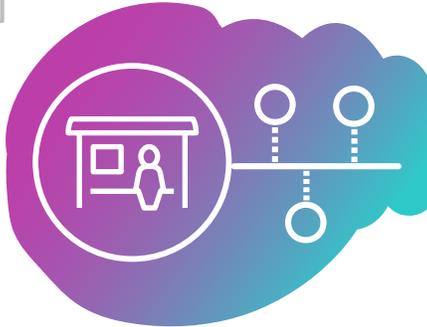
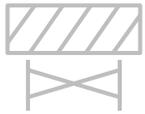
**Fact:**

**The 171-mile line from Merced to Fresno to Bakersfield connects the three largest cities in California's Central Valley, a region of about 3 million people.**

That's more people than 15 states currently have (Wyoming, Vermont, Alaska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Delaware, Rhode Island, Montana, Maine, New Hampshire, Hawaii, Idaho, West Virginia, Nebraska, New Mexico). It will also connect three major California universities and 122 community colleges in the region.



**Myth: There's no way to get from the Central Valley to San Francisco or Los Angeles.**

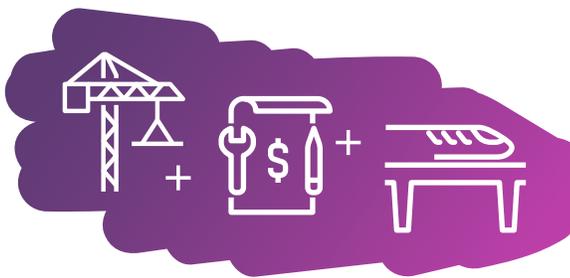


**Fact:**

As part of the statewide rail modernization plan, high-speed rail will become the backbone of rail transportation in California.

**It will allow for convenient connections including the Altamont Corridor Express service in Merced which will soon have service to San Jose and the east Bay Area, the Amtrak San Joaquin service to Oakland and Sacramento, and connections from Bakersfield to Southern California.**

**Myth: High-speed rail is just a jobs program.**



**Fact:**

**High-speed rail is creating jobs and stimulating California's economy, but that's only part of the story.**

There are currently 21 active construction sites spanning 119 miles from north of Fresno to north of Bakersfield, and work has been completed at State Route 99 and the Tuolumne Street Bridge in Fresno.

**Myth: High-speed rail has given up on San Francisco and Los Angeles.**



**Fact:**

Our recommendation is *not* a Central Valley line *instead* of a Valley-to-Valley line— it is a Central Valley line *first* while we seek more funds and work to environmentally clear the entire 520 miles of Phase 1.

**The Authority is committed to bookend investments in both Northern and Southern California and completion of environmental work for the length of the San Francisco to Los Angeles/Anaheim corridor. We remain committed to investments including the Caltrain Electrification Project in Northern California and Link US at Los Angeles Union Station.**