

# STUDENT RESOURCE HANDOUT



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS - CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY



The Board of Directors is responsible for setting policy directives for the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority), and for the development and approval of the Authority's key policy documents.

The board or commission at a state department often sit at the head of the organization structure and serve as a decision-making body for the organization. The members of the board do not work for the agency/department and often have other full-time employment elsewhere in other sectors, some in private and others in public.

The guidelines for the Authority's Board of Directors are outlined in [Proposition 1A](#), the 2008 bond measure approved by the state's voters, making it the nation's first ever voter-approved financing mechanism for high-speed rail. The makeup of a state board or commission will look different throughout the state or government. There will be a varying degree of expertise and terms.

The Authority's Board of Directors is made up of 11 members. Of those members, five were appointed by the Governor and four appointed by the California Legislature (which is made up of the Senate and Assembly). There are an additional two non-voting ex-officio members, appointed by the legislature, one member each from the State Senate and Assembly. Learn more about the Authority's Board of Directors and view their bios [here](#).



---

#### WHAT TYPE OF POLICY DECISIONS DO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MAKE AT THE AUTHORITY?

- The California High-Speed Rail Authority provides policy recommendations to the Board of Directors, informed by the experts that work within the Authority. The board members are given all the information possible to make informed decisions on spending of the project funds, approving environmental documents and what major policy decisions are made for the continuation of the project.
- Final resolutions for the California High-Speed Rail Authority can be found [here](#) in our website.

---

#### HOW CAN THE PUBLIC ENGAGE WITH BOARD MEETINGS?

- All board meetings are open and accessible to the public.
- In addition, every board meeting welcomes public comment. Public comment can include, for example, community members impacted by the project, city leaders, representatives of elected officials, community organizations and even I Will Ride and other students. Public comment is an important aspect of all board meetings, allowing the public to address the board members and Authority representatives directly.

---

#### HOW CAN I PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT?

- Before all board meetings went virtual during COVID, individuals would arrive a few minutes before the meeting began to register for public comment. Given the change to virtual platforms for all state board meetings, the process is a little different.

---

Here are some helpful tips to register to provide public comment.

- o You can email [info@hsr.ca.gov](mailto:info@hsr.ca.gov) and ask for a link to sign up for public comment.
- or**
- o Subscribe for Board Meeting updates [here](#).
    - Sign up for email notifications. In the dropdown that reads 'Sign-Up for Email Alerts' make sure to check 'Board of Directors.'
    - The email updates for board meetings will have a link to register for public comment.

You can review upcoming meeting agendas and review past meeting materials on the [Board of Directors](#) page.

CONTACT: **BOARD OF DIRECTORS SECRETARY** (916) 324-1541 [BOARDMEMBERS@HSR.CA.GOV](mailto:BOARDMEMBERS@HSR.CA.GOV)