

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: Building high-speed rail causes more pollution than it will save.



Fact:

Contract requirements dictate our construction sites have significantly better air quality than the California average. Our contractors use Tier 4 on- and off-road vehicles and technology to reduce nitrogen dioxide emissions.

Site emissions are 60 percent lower than the state average.

Myth: High-speed rail causes sprawl.

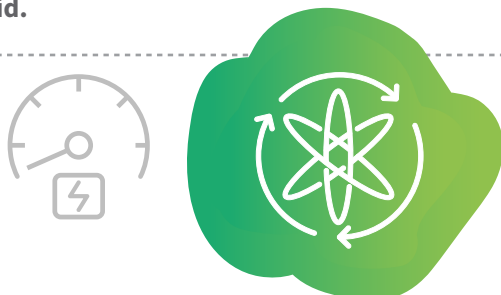


Fact:

More than \$10 million in funding has been awarded for station area planning efforts, which will help create thriving and sustainable station area districts.

Planning among key cities creates meaningful connections and economic opportunities.

Myth: High-speed rail will be a drain on the power grid.



Fact:

High-Speed Rail will run on electricity supplied entirely from renewable sources.

The Authority is committed to using 100 percent renewable energy to operate our trains and facilities.



Myth: High-speed rail does nothing to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions now.



Fact:

At this very moment, rail crossings throughout northern and southern California are being upgraded or eliminated. This reduces traffic congestion, improves safety and cuts GHG emissions from idling vehicles. A single rail crossing can cause up to 45 days of stopped traffic per year, which results in about 1,800 tons of GHG emissions annually.

Myth: Investing Cap-and-Trade proceeds in high-speed rail has produced no results.



Fact:

Cap-and-Trade funding has helped spur nearly \$4B of economic activity in disadvantaged communities and dispatched 400+ disadvantaged workers to construction projects. Of the 600+ small businesses participating in the high-speed rail program, 192 are Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. Already, 5,500+ workers are on site building high-speed rail.

Myth: California could make better transportation investments.



Fact:

High-speed rail will help achieve California's climate goals by reducing transportation emissions and being part of a sustainable transportation network. Goals include reducing congestion and pollution, while improving mobility and access to jobs and affordable housing. With a growing population and economy, high-speed rail is the only transportation mode meeting these goals.



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