The California High-Speed Rail Authority is applying for grant funding from the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Program (FSP-National) for federal fiscal year 2022 and 2023 funding.

This application is for a Major Capital Projects grant to fund early elements of the California Inaugural High-Speed Service (Project) – a two-track electrified high-speed passenger rail line connecting the cities of Merced, Fresno, and Bakersfield.

The requested federal grant is about $2.8 billion, and grant funds are proposed to be matched by state Cap-and-Trade funds of about $706 million, for a total of about $3.5 billion. The Authority will additionally be requesting a multi-year funding agreement from the FSP-National Program for future fiscal years of funding and applying for grants from other Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) programs with the target of about $8 billion in new grants. The grant requested from 2022 and 2023 appropriation funding would specifically be used to:

- Procure six electric trains for testing and use for high-speed rail passenger service at speeds up to 220 mph;
- Construct the second track on the 119-mile high-speed rail from Madera to Poplar Avenue;
- Construct the Fresno Station;
- Complete final design and early works including right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation on the following extensions beyond the 119-mile first construction segment:
  1. Merced Extension – from Madera to Merced;
  2. Bakersfield Extension – from Poplar Ave. to Bakersfield;

With the above work, the 119-mile segment would be completed, with trains and track and system elements tested and certified. This segment would be ready to demonstrate high-speed passenger operations. This requested funding will improve the health, safety, access, connectivity and economic vitality of underserved communities in California's Central Valley. Implementing the California Inaugural High-Speed Service between Merced and Bakersfield is a critical milestone of the State's rail modernization plan, linking key regional passenger rail systems and building toward the future Phase 1 High-Speed Rail Corridor from San Francisco to Los Angeles. The projected ridership for the California Phase 1 Corridor would make it the most traveled intercity passenger service in the nation.

This FSP-National grant application is part of an on-going federal-state partnership that, to date, has provided approximately $25.2 billion in funding for California High-Speed Rail ($21.7 billion / 85% state, and $3.5 billion / 15% federal). California is the only state in the country to have committed this level of funding to modernizing rail, and the Authority is asking the federal government to match this level of commitment with strong project grant support from IIJA funding.

Other recent Authority grant applications submitted include the Rail Crossing Elimination (RCE) and Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) programs to complete construction of several grade crossings, and the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program for a station project.