



# CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL: LE GRAND ROAD OVERCROSSING PROJECT ON MERCED EXTENSION

*The California High-Speed Rail Authority is applying for grant funding from the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA's) Rail Crossing Elimination (RCE) program for federal fiscal years 2023 and 2024. The application is for the Le Grand Road Overcrossing (the Project) within the Merced Extension, which will separate cars, trucks, bicycles, and pedestrians from the freight, intercity passenger rail and high-speed rail operations in a corridor essential to the Inaugural High-Speed Service between Merced and Bakersfield in the Central Valley, as well as the Phase 1 High-Speed Rail System, which has been admitted into the FRA's Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) Program.*

The RCE application is for federal funding of **\$89.65 million**. The State of California will provide matching funds from the Authority's Cap-and-Trade revenue of **\$22.41 million**, for a total project cost of **\$112.06 million**.

The Le Grand Road Overcrossing will prevent accidents on tracks between vehicles, pedestrians and trains that could cause property damage, injuries and fatalities. The Project would eliminate the final two existing at-grade crossing conflicts with freight rail within the alignment of the high-speed service between Merced and Bakersfield, now that the Shafter Grade Separations Project has been funded. The Project and the high-speed service it facilitates will improve the health, safety, access, connectivity and economic vitality of underserved communities in California's Central Valley, home to 6 million people.



*The Le Grand Road Overcrossing Project will eliminate conflicts between trains and motor vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians and enable future high-speed trains to traverse the corridor at speeds of up to 220 mph.*

### **The Project consists of the following elements:**

- Construction of the Le Grand Road Overcrossing;
- Closing of two at-grade crossings at Ranch Road and Lingard Road;
- Construction of new connecting roads to reach the Le Grand Road Overcrossing; and
- Construction management, project management and reporting.

In addition to the safety benefits, the Project will improve mobility for goods and people, and improve access to nearby farming, commercial and residential communities. Since the Project is in a rural, disadvantaged community, this investment provides benefits to a region facing economic barriers and fully aligns with the Biden Administration's Justice40 initiative. For example, the Le Grand Overcrossing Project will facilitate direct access to the emerging "Merced Campus Parkway," which is the south-eastern portion of an

expressway loop system that will circle the City of Merced and connect surrounding communities to job opportunities, regional amenities and industrial development within the region. The Project also supplements proposed community improvements in the City of Chowchilla and nearby community of Fairmead to mitigate impacts of rail and highway projects on these communities.

This RCE Grant Program application is part of an on-going federal-state partnership that, to date, has provided approximately **\$28.8 billion** in funding for high-speed rail in California (**\$22 billion / 76% state, and \$6.8 billion / 24% 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 grant support of the project with Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding.