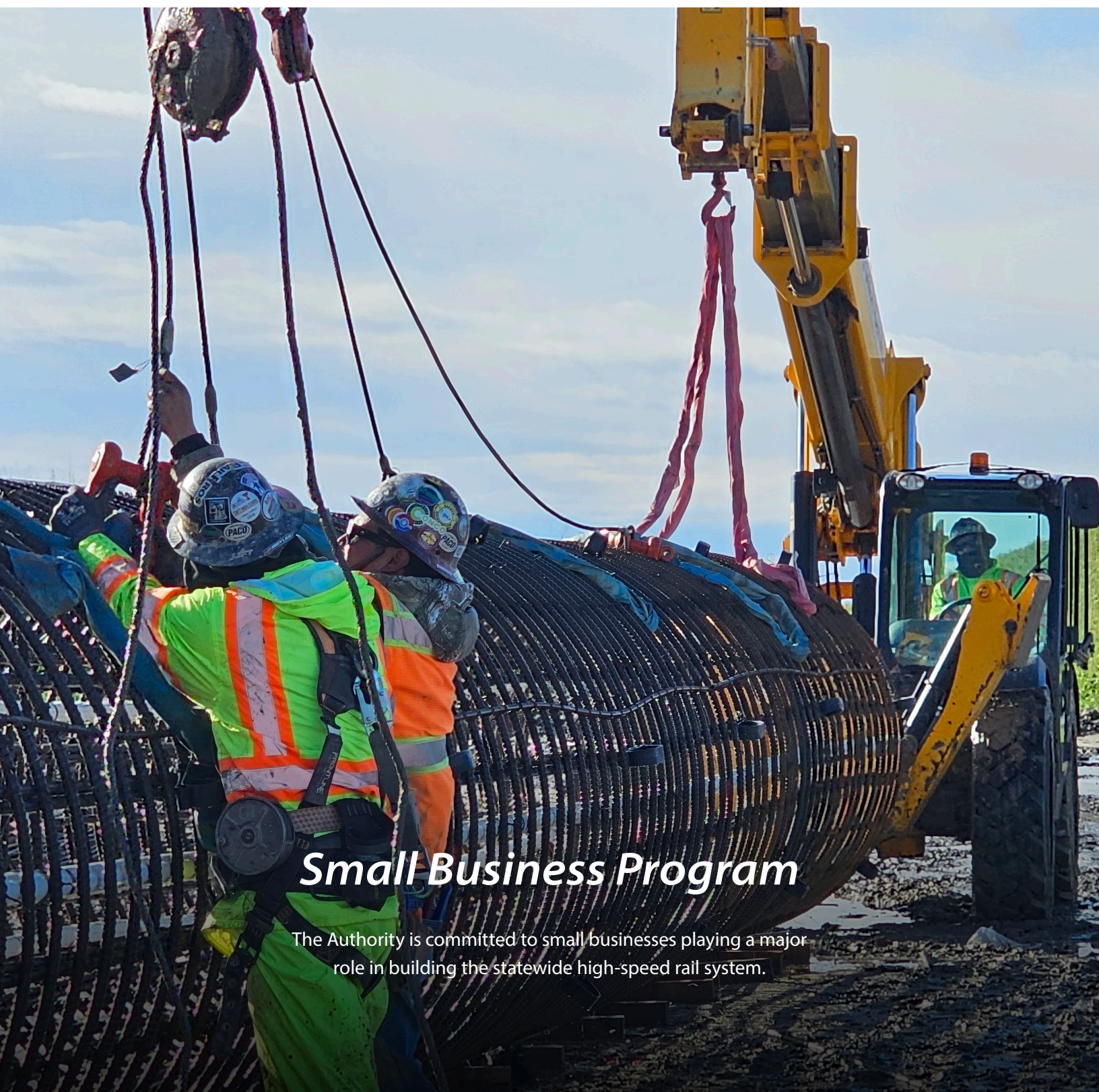


# Investing in California Small Businesses

SMALL BUSINESS NEWSLETTER • Volume 13: Issue 03

SUMMER 2025



## *Small Business Program*

The Authority is committed to small businesses playing a major role in building the statewide high-speed rail system.



**SMALL BUSINESS NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME 13 • ISSUE 03  
SUMMER 2025**

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RAIL AUTHORITY**

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To access and download more information pertaining to the small business program, visit the Small Business Resources webpage at <https://hsr.ca.gov/small-business/>

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To view past newsletters visit:

<https://hsr.ca.gov/business-opportunities/small-business-program/small-business-newsletter/>

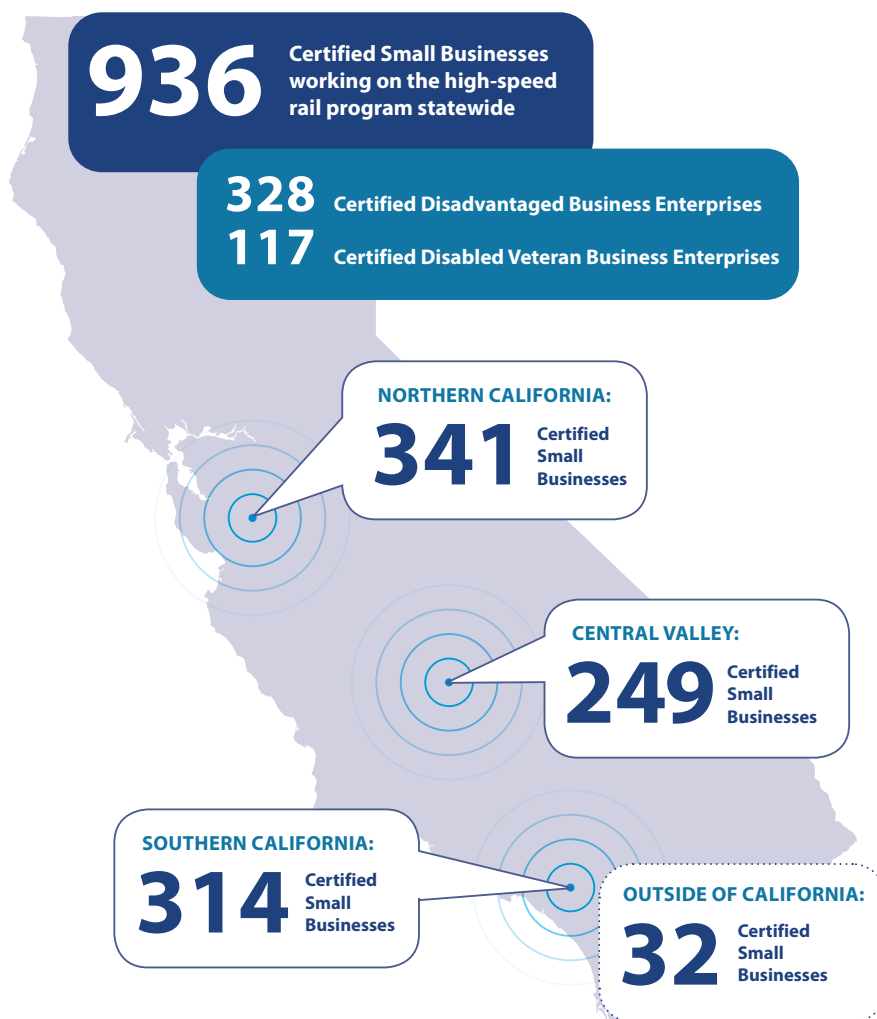
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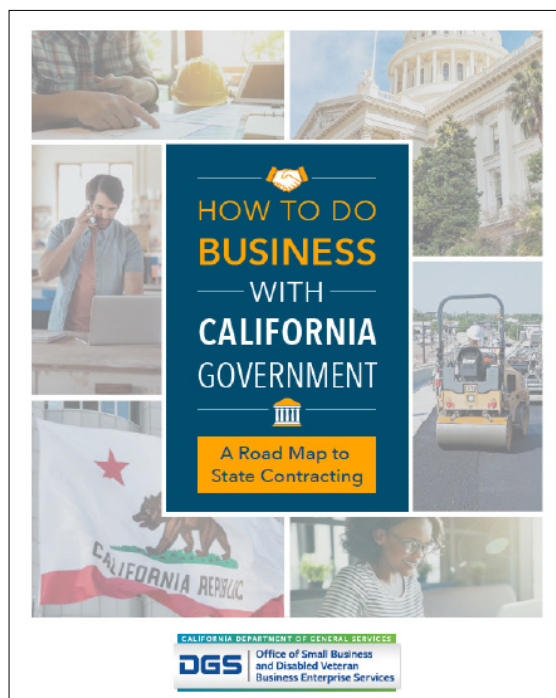
### SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

as of May 31, 2025



# How to Do Business with the State of California

Visit these resources for education, training, and support for growing a thriving business, doing business with the state of California, and connecting with the High-Speed Rail Authority.



# Chardená Shares



Chardená Valley, Assistant Chief of Small Business

**A**nother Labor Day passed us by, but I want to start by saying thanks to the workers building the nation's first high-speed rail system right here in California. As we move into fall season here at the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority), we continue the increasing momentum we have built up over the last year.

Just this week, legislative leaders and the Governor reached an agreement to reauthorize the Cap-and-Invest program, securing a historic commitment of \$1 billion for the California High-Speed Rail annually through 2045, the largest guaranteed infusion of funding for the program to date. CEO Ian Choudri called the agreement "a big, bold statement about California's future—one that will create jobs, cut pollution, and connect and transform communities across the state." [Read more about the announcement here](#). The legislature is expected to vote on the proposal this Saturday, September 13, 2025.

At the end of August, we issued a [supplemental to the 2025 Project Update Report](#). This report provides a clear path forward to connect the high-speed rail to Northern and Southern California via the Central Valley by 2039, contingent on sufficient, long-term funding. It also lays out multiple scenarios for success and provides guidance for the Legislature to support the project and highlights the potential for Public-Private-Partnership (P3) delivery models.

We'll have more details on the next steps over the coming months, and our 2026 Business Plan next year.

Our Board of Directors also recently [approved issuance of invitations for bids for the provisions of high-speed rail track and other required system components](#). This approval opens the door for American manufacturers to competitively bid in six separate procurements, just as the Authority nears completion of its southern railhead project in Kern County.

This approval opens the door for American manufacturers to competitively bid in six separate procurements, just as the Authority nears completion of its southern railhead project in Kern County.

Materials needed to lay track along the 119-mile segment will be 100 percent state funded and include several commodities, including rail, ties, overhead contact system poles, fiber optic cable, and ballast, with a total approved cost of \$507 million spread over multiple anticipated contract awards. These components are necessary for high-speed rail installation and operations, with lead times ranging from 6 to 12 months. More information about this contract can be found on our [website](#) and on page 8 of this newsletter.

In addition, we filled some key positions that make up our small business program.

At the beginning of September, Norma J. Curiel joined us as the Authority's new Small Business Advocate. Prior to high-speed rail, she was a Certification Branch Manager, Staff Services Manager I with Department of General Services and a former Associate Governmental Program Analyst and Administrative Manager. She has a bachelor's degree in Spanish literature and Recreation Administration from CSU Chico and has conducted webinars for business certification in Spanish. I hope you can introduce yourself to her when you get a chance, she'll be taking over the development of this column going forward.





**“I see clearer now more than ever the potential for this transformational project, one that can reshape the state and our society for the better. I see a future — by 2038 to 2039 — when operations are already connecting the Central Valley to population centers and innovation hubs, offering new career opportunities, economic mobility, affordable housing, and a cleaner environment. A system that is efficient, sustainable, and equitable. A system that connects us to each other and to the world around us.”**

Ian Choudri, Authority CEO

Another new face is Ronald J. Aleteanu, who joined us at the end of August and will be the new Small Business Support Services and Title VI Manager. He brings over 25 years of experience in government operations and program management and has experience with policy analysis, budget optimization and stakeholder engagement. Prior to joining us at high-speed rail, he was an Evaluations Advisor with the Department of Industrial Relations. We're so pleased to have him as part of our team.

We're also excited about our upcoming Annual Small Business Diversity and Resources Fair on October 22 in Burlingame. We're hosting this free event to encourage advancing equity in state contracting, and activities for this event will include:

- *Networking opportunities with other businesses and Authority Primes and Resource Partners,*
- *Presentations on Authority projects and milestones,*
- *Information and insights into the procurement process,*
- *Matchmaking sessions with current and potential Primes and more.*

We have more events happening throughout the fall, including several matchmakings with the Primes opportunities, a DBE certification workshop with Caltrans

in October, and an online workshop with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) that will cover information about SBA loan guaranty programs, navigating lending pitfalls and the five C's of credit. Check out our calendar of events on the next page, and make sure you are signed up in our vendor registry [ConnectHSR](#) to stay connected with the latest opportunities on the program.

I will close out this column by sharing this issue's theme which is "Summer Innovations: New Tools to Enhance Your Business." California's high-speed rail project is one of the most innovative projects in the nation, and we want to connect with and support small businesses bringing new and exciting ideas to the table. That's one of the reasons for hosting our annual event in the Bay Area as the Silicon Valley has always been one of the most consequential and forward-thinking areas in the state and the nation.

I look forward to seeing you all at upcoming events and working to deliver this project together.

# Small Business Events



Tables at the Small Business Forum provided a place for industry to learn more about potential business opportunities and network.



Matchmaking sessions between small businesses and prime contractors create business connections that support industry and high-speed rail.

September 23, 2025

## **NorCal SBDC Pro-Biz Benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Small Businesses**

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Online/Virtual

October 7, 2025

## **CPUC Small and Diverse Business Expo**

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Carson Event Center,  
801 Carson Street, Carson, CA 90745

October 8, 2025

## **Matchmaking Preparation Workshop #2 – Success Starts with the Right Match**

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Online/Virtual

October 22, 2025

## **2025 Small Business Diversity and Resources Fair**

9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

October 23, 2025

## **2025 Sacramento Public Agency Consortium (SACPAC) Connecting Point Event**

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Ziggurat (DGS Headquarters),  
707 3rd St, West Sacramento, CA 95605



# Did You Know?



## Frequently Asked Questions from Small Businesses

**Question:** How do I connect with a Prime? Who are the Primes?

**Answer:** The Authority provides a link to the Authority [Major Contractors Payment Report](#) on its landing page. This document provides a listing of the Prime contracts currently being paid by the Authority and is updated monthly. The Authority's Small Business Program also regularly hosts Meet the Primes workshops. These open-house style workshops typically include guest speakers from our current prime contractors and consultant firms. Attending one of these events is a great way to meet primes and learn about their current project needs. You can register at the Authority's vendor registry [ConnectHSR](#) to learn about upcoming workshops.

## Business Advisory Council Profiles



Azizza Davis Goines - President/CEO - Capital Black Chamber of Commerce

### Capital Black Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1984, the Capital Black Chamber of Commerce (CAPBCC) was organized to bring African American business owners and professionals together to create a solid economic structure within Sacramento's business community. The CAPBCC is a network of dedicated, high-energy business professionals working together to improve the economic, cultural, and civic wellbeing of the African American community. Azizza Davis Goines is the President and CEO of the CAPBCC.

The mission of the CAPBCC is to achieve economic equity and sustainability for Black and African Americans through Policy, Education, Advocacy, Community, and Environment. The work CAPBCC extends well beyond California's borders, and encompassing visits to Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Ghana and Turkey, to explore opportunities in trade, investment and agriculture.



Melanie Okoro - BAC Primary Representative - Capital Black Chamber of Commerce

### Dr. Melanie Okoro, Ph.D., CAPBCC, Primary Representative

Dr. Melanie Harrison Okoro, Ph.D., serves as the CAPBCC primary representative on the Authority's Business Advisory Council (BAC) and brings over 20 years of experience to the BAC. Dr. Okoro is a trailblazing entrepreneur, scientist, thought leader, and advocate whose work is redefining the landscape of natural resource protection, environmental stewardship and the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) workforce.

Dr. Okoro is also the Founder, CEO, and Principal of Eco-Alpha Environmental and Engineering Services, along with her husband and co-owner, Uzoma Okoro, the former Director of Engineering for the Golden 1 Center Arena.



Melanie and Ozuma Okoro - Co-Owners of Eco-Alpha Environmental and Engineering Services

Eco-Alpha Environmental and Engineering Services, based in Sacramento, provides critical engineering and environmental consulting services by offering innovative solutions that support both public and private sector clients in meeting regulatory requirements and promoting ecological responsibility. On this high-speed rail project, they provided detailed facilities operation and maintenance cost estimation analysis for train platforms and heavy maintenance facilities.

Beyond her technical acumen, Dr. Okoro is widely recognized as a passionate advocate for equity and inclusion in STEM fields. She actively works to diversify the environmental and engineering workforce by mentoring emerging professionals, promoting inclusive hiring practices, and supporting educational initiatives that broaden access to STEM careers.

Her commitment to community engagement is equally profound. Dr. Okoro serves as a Board of Trustee for Sacramento Splash, a nonprofit dedicated to inspiring and educating youth about the natural world through hands-on science education.

Dr. Okoro exemplifies the power of visionary leadership rooted in science, service, and social impact. Her work continues to inspire a new generation of changemakers committed to building a more sustainable and equitable future.

# Procurement Update



Workers installing the streetlights at the Tulare Street Underpass prior to its completion and opening.

On August 28, the Authority Board of Directors approved issuance of invitations for bids for the provisions of high-speed rail track and other required system components. This approval opens the door for American manufacturers to competitively bid in six separate procurements, just as the Authority nears completion of its southern railhead project in Kern County. Materials needed to lay track along the 119-mile segment will be 100 percent state funded and include several commodities, including rail, ties, overhead contact system poles, fiber optic cable, and EN ballast, with a total approved cost of \$507 million spread over multiple anticipated contract awards. [Check out our news release](#) and the [procurement advertisement with the anticipated schedule](#) for more information.

Additionally, the Board received an informational update regarding a soon-to-be established multiple-award task order contract (MATOC) that will result in an award to several contractors from a single solicitation. This solicitation will seek entities that are to provide a broad range of repair and minor construction activities in the Central Valley on a task order basis. The Authority intends to award a MATOC to four pools of businesses: one pool of large business contractors for the entire geographic region, two pools of small business contractors with varying geographic scope (one pool to support work in Merced, Madera, and Fresno counties, and one pool to support work in Tulare, Kings, and Kern counties), and one pool of authorized utility relocation contractors. Check out the [procurement advertisement with the anticipated schedule](#) for more information.

Maxwell Thogmartin



# Supporting Small Businesses: Q&A with Heather Luzzi, Sacramento District Office Director, U.S. Small Business Administration

**W**e recently connected with Heather Luzzi from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to learn how the SBA supports small businesses, especially those interested in participating in major infrastructure projects like the high-speed rail project.

## **Q: What is the SBA, and how does it help small businesses?**

The U.S. SBA is a federal agency created in 1953 to support small businesses through every stage of growth from startup to expansion to recovery. With over 4 million small businesses in California alone, the SBA focuses on four pillars: access to capital, federal contracting, business counseling, and disaster recovery.

We help small businesses secure loans by guaranteeing them through a national network of lenders, making it easier to access the funding they need. Our federal contracting programs help level the playing field so small businesses can compete for a share of the federal government's \$800 billion annual spend. Additionally, we offer no-cost training and counseling through our local partners to help business owners plan, grow, and succeed. During disasters, we also provide low-interest recovery loans to help businesses bounce back.

Whether you're looking to launch, grow, or win contracts on major infrastructure projects like the high-speed rail project, the SBA is here to support you.

## **Q: How does the SBA support small businesses financially?**

Through our lender network, we help businesses secure loans by guaranteeing them, reducing the risk for lenders. Whether it's funds to buy equipment, real estate, or expand operations, our programs can support loans up to \$5.5 million. We can connect you to lenders that will provide the money needed for you to start, grow, hire, and invest in your success. Check out our [Lender Match system](#) to be connected directly to lenders.

## **Q: How can small businesses prepare to work with the SBA?**

Start by reaching out—don't go it alone. We offer no-cost support through our resource partners including Women's

## Get Funding to Start or Grow Your Business



Business Centers (WBC), Veteran Business Outreach Centers (VBOC), SCORE Business Mentoring, and Small Business Development Centers (SBDC). These experts can help with business planning, financial projections, certifications, and navigating federal contracts.

## **Q: What are you most excited about for the upcoming small business workshop in September?**

Connecting with every business that attends to see what their pain points are and assist them in navigating the complexities of lending and contracting. We want businesses to be prepared for the work that is to come from the high-speed rail project, and a large part of that is having the capital necessary to perform. We want to ensure they're ready with the right certifications, resources, and capital to compete and succeed.

## **Q: Any final advice for businesses interested in High-Speed Rail opportunities?**

We are here to help. Whether you need help accessing capital or navigating the contracting process, the SBA is ready to support your success. Learn more about the SBA by visiting our [website](#), or reach out to our Sacramento office at (916) 735-1700 or [sacramento\\_do@sba.gov](mailto:sacramento_do@sba.gov). We're not selling anything, just offering tools and resources to help your business grow!

Hear more from Luzzi and the SBA at our upcoming virtual workshop, Access to Capital & Financial Support, on September 10. This workshop will provide guidance for small businesses on securing funding and financial resources. Visit <https://hsr-ca.gov.zoom.us/j/8wmNQYMMOw#registration/register/17PRFZiFT9C> to sign up.

Mildori Dobson

# Building a Legacy – and Building a High-Speed Rail

Wayne Perry's Journey from Richmond to the World



Wayne Perry, Founder and CEO of Cornerstone Concilium

**W**ayne Perry isn't just a founder, CEO, and expert in the delivery of complex infrastructure projects.

He is someone who was inspired by the lessons he learned from his grandparents and from his childhood in the railroad town of Richmond, California.

"My maternal grandparents Leedonia Dace and George Dace moved to San Francisco where my grandmother was a Rosie the Riveter during World War II," Perry says, noting his paternal grandparents ultimately moved to California in the aftermath of the Tulsa Race Massacre in 1921, when white supremacists went on a murderous rampage, wiping out the prosperous Black area of Tulsa known as "Black Wall Street," destroying Perry's grandparents' business. Other

relatives were Pullman Porters, working on the railroads in a profession important to our nation's civil rights and labor history.

That is a lot of history to grow up around and Perry made sure to remember it. "I always said when I get established in my career, I would try to start something, to empower people who don't have access to or engagement with opportunities like high-speed rail projects," Perry says. "My dream was to create a company with the most talented workforce, inclusive of people from all around the world... a village community where everyone could contribute."

Perry took the first step, getting established in his career, when he founded his firm [Cornerstone Concilium](#) and it began to grow rapidly. Cornerstone started out offering design and project management services to faith-based community projects. Now it has expanded to offer consulting services on complex infrastructure projects globally, in the transportation, facilities, and technology industries for both the private and public sector.

Cornerstone recently wrapped up one particularly important project--providing design and management expertise for the Caltrain Electrification project. These electrified tracks will serve as high-speed rail infrastructure because high-speed trains will share the rails with existing Caltrain service, in a blended system.

His most ambitious effort is his Cornerstone Institute, which works to prepare students and young people for quality jobs in the design and construction technology industries. More than 450 people have graduated from the institute to date, with other classes to join them soon. The coursework is demanding. Students get hands-on experience, site tours, networking, and coaching on the life and professional skills that will help them succeed in the workplace. Perry preaches the value of focusing on knowledge, hard work, and a good attitude. Despite being demanding, Cornerstone Institute is also impactful. It





As a member of the Authority's Business Advisory Council, Wayne Perry works to uplift small businesses and make sure they are afforded opportunities on California's high-speed rail project.

boasts a nearly 100% employment rate so far for graduates, who are working on projects around the Bay Area.

It's not just students that Perry is looking out for. He also works to lift up entrepreneurs and his fellow small businesspeople. Perry is a member of the Authority's Business Advisory Council and a dedicated advocate on the importance of expanding the small business sector.

The ultimate goal is to help families grow the kind of stability and wealth that can be passed down to future generations and benefit entire communities. "I like the

ability to create opportunity for people who look like me and for people who look like everybody in this room."

Wayne Perry provides expert services to some of the most vital infrastructure projects in the United States, but he's never forgotten where he comes from. He grew up with an invaluable legacy, including the belief that his role in life was to help give more people access to better opportunities. That legacy guides both his professional and his community work.

Shum Preston



CORNERSTONE CONCILIUM, INC.

# Designing California's High-Speed Rail Stations with Studio-MLA



Studio-MLA team (from left to right: Ben Feldmann, Ariel Dungca, David Koo, Xhian McIntyre, Ian Miller, Siddhi Khirad, Jake Geitner, Lindsey Yuen, Nainoa Cravalho, Qiuming Li, Simone Drucker, Kunal Mokasdar. Missing: Eric Marecki, Jae Ahn, Diana Nightingale).

Imagine taking your family to a train station for the weekend. Now imagine an open-air high-speed rail station shaded by trees, alive with farmers' markets, Wi-Fi, city festivals, and kids and teens playing outside.

[Studio-MLA](#) landscape architects Ben Feldmann and Lindsey Yuen are helping shape that vision. As part of the Foster + Partners and Arup-led team, Studio-MLA is the landscape architect for the Central Valley Stations of California's High-Speed Rail. Feldmann and Yuen see California's High-Speed Rail as an opportunity to create lasting value in our outdoor spaces, with designs that highlight the pride Californians hold in iconic landscapes such as the Sierra Nevada Mountains and Yosemite. These green gathering places also serve as community hubs to underfunded neighborhoods who may not have been able

to build them otherwise, so people can spend more time outside and with each other.

"The Central Valley is a special place in California with a deep cultural and environmental history worth being told," says Yuen.

Studio-MLA, a California-certified small business with 45 staff based in Los Angeles and San Francisco, is all about creating outdoor spaces that inspire connection: to humans, to communities, to the environment itself. "Any opportunity to build an everyday relationship with your surroundings, whether that's with your community or the environment, is really important," Yuen says.

This landscape architecture firm is special because they also integrate urban design and planning into their practice, with interdisciplinary collaborations between engineers,



architects, and local community. Their ethos, “advocacy by design,” guides how they seek to restore environmental balance and, in the case of Fresno’s Chinatown, reintegrate communities that were historically disadvantaged by zoning. Yuen describes the Fresno station as a “civic connector”, explaining that “the station itself is a publicly accessible bridge, directly linking downtown with the Chinatown community. It’s an immediate and long-term investment in the public realm.”

Feldmann notes landscape architecture can bring benefits with rippling effects when systems are designed together: trees save energy by lowering ambient temperatures, and accessible green spaces support community life. With heat waves and fires on Southern California’s mind, he sees Californians responding to changing conditions by looking to millennia-long indigenous land practices like controlled burns, and by creating urban forests and shaded streets to make the outdoors more livable and accessible.

Feldmann emphasizes the importance of listening to local community input to the stations’ designs to ensure they support both statewide mobility goals and local needs. “Talk to your neighbor. Talk with indigenous populations. Talk to



Members of Studio-MLA explored Fresno’s Chinatown during a site visit to help inform their design choices.

people you don’t know and listen,” Feldmann encourages. “Talk about this project, because it is an important part of the state’s future. With community input, this system will not only provide a vital mode of transportation but also help connect California as a network of future-ready communities.”

Studio-MLA has contributed to major public destinations including the Nature Gardens at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, BMO Stadium, SoFi Stadium, with upcoming work on the California Indian Heritage Center in Sacramento and at LAX in preparation for the 2026 World Cup and 2028 Olympics. Still, for Feldmann, the high-speed rail is one of the projects he is proudest to support as a lifelong Californian.

Diana Delgado Cornejo



In August 2024, Authority staff and the Central Valley Stations Design Team hosted a workshop to collaborate on planning for future high-speed rail stations.

# STUDIO-MLA

# Meet the PDS Interns



Summer 2025 Interns on HSR Arch

**T**he AECOM-Fluor Joint Venture, the Program Delivery Support (PDS) consultant for the Authority, is providing opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience and a firsthand look at work on the high-speed rail. Meet these young professionals and learn what they have to say about their internship experiences supporting this historic project.



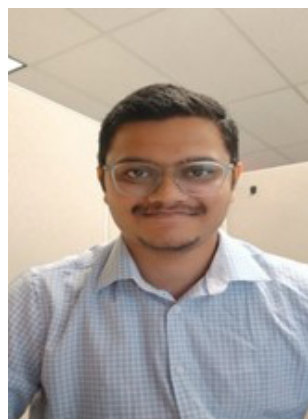
## Sean Choo

Sean Choo just finished his third year studying Civil Engineering at UC Berkeley and is involved with the Institution of Transportation Engineers and the ASCE Transportation Competition Team. Choo is originally from Southern California but lived in Shanghai and Hong Kong for a few years. From memorizing the Shanghai Metro map as an

elementary schooler to commuting to community college on a low-headway bus, Choo's love of transportation has guided him to pursue a career in transportation. Outside of school and work, he enjoys exploring cities on foot, by bike, and on public transportation. He also enjoys storytelling, outdoor activities, and looking at maps.

## Here's what Choo had to say about his internship experience:

"The internship provided me an insight into the ins and outs of managing megaprojects with such a large scope as high-speed rail. I was able to see how different disciplines work together to make such a project happen, and that mega project management is more than just engineering. I was also able to meet a lot of professionals in different fields, which further expanding my network and gave me more insight into the project. The highlight of my summer was when we got to attend two site visits in Fresno and see both completed structures and active construction sites."



## Divyrajsinh Chudasama

Divyrajsinh Divyrajsinh Chudasama is pursuing his master's in civil engineering with a specialization in Transportation Engineering, he is starting his senior year and will graduate in May 2026. Chudasama is attending California State University, Long beach, where he also works as a student assistant for the Joint Training and Certification program with Caltrans. Chudasama's short-term goal is to become a Transportation Engineer and, later, a Transportation manager after pursuing an MBA. Outside of work he enjoys sports and adventure activities and is also part of a drama play group where he follows his dream of acting.



**Here's what Chudasama had to say about his internship experience:**

"Working on a project which is first of its kind in the US, gave the insight of how mega projects function. Rotating through all the high-speed rail offices gave me the knowledge and experience needed to understand how projects are designed, managed, and executed from cradle to grave. I appreciated having the opportunity to visit the active construction site and see how the quality control and safety works at the site."



**Ehizele Iyarah**

Born and raised in the Bay Area, Ehizele Iyarah is currently approaching his last semester at Sacramento State, studying Construction Management with a minor in Business. Prior to his internship on the high-speed rail project, Iyarah was involved in the heavy civil construction industry. He has experience in pre-construction support, with hands-on experience in estimating and 3D modeling. Outside of the office he enjoys exploring the outdoors and engaging in competitive activities.

**Here's what Iyarah had to say about his internship experience:**

"This internship provided me with a unique and valuable experience. The people I've met throughout the process have made the internship enjoyable. The people I've met have been very helpful, by answering questions and providing insight pertaining to their careers. As a result, I've learned many lessons I can take with me to prepare for the start of my career. Prior to the internship I was unfamiliar with most aspects of the high-speed rail project, but as time went on, I learned how collaboration between different offices is essential and the roles that the play individually to accomplish one goal."



**Afrid Mohammad**

Afrid Mohammad is a graduate student in Construction Management at Fresno State with a strong interest in project management, including overseeing projects by aligning planned schedules with actual progress to ensure timely and efficient delivery. Mohammad holds multiple certifications, including Bluebeam Certified Professional, OSHA 30-Hour, Construction Manager-in-Training, AutoCAD Certified Professional, and Oracle Primavera P6 Certified Specialist. He also completed preparation for the Certified Associate in Project Management exam and is about to take the certification test. As a Bluebeam User Group Leader, he fostered collaboration and guided peers in leveraging technology for construction workflows. His passions include project scheduling, progress tracking, and applying effective management strategies to deliver successful projects.

**Here's what Mohammad had to say about his internship experience:**

"As a PDS Intern on the high-speed rail project, I developed technical skills in document control for duty statements, root cause analysis for change orders, safety site assessments in compliance with OSHA and FRA standards, understanding the Right-of-Way (ROW) process, particularly eminent domain, and creating scheduling dashboards to track ROW. I enjoyed working across all offices in the PDS team to understand how each contributes to the success of the high-speed rail project, building valuable professional connections, and visiting active construction sites in Fresno's Construction Package 1 to see project execution firsthand."

# Speed Reads



## CALIFORNIA BULLET TRAIN WILL GET \$20 BILLION IN STATE FUNDING AMID TRUMP FIGHT

California's legislature is moving ahead with plans to provide \$20 billion in additional funding for the state's financially challenged high-speed rail system, which will help complete the initial Central Valley portion and start work connecting it to San Francisco and Los Angeles. The move comes as the state also sues the Trump administration for attempting to claw back \$4 billion of federal funds.



## PORTUGAL HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECTS GETS GREEN LIGHT

The first high-speed railway system in Portugal just received its first grant of just over \$1 billion, allowing work to begin. This is a major step towards completing the European Union's goal to establish a continent-spanning network of high-speed railways. This will help drive economic growth and meet the EU's long-term climate and integration goals. Portugal is set to begin construction for the railway in phases, with this first grant allowing them to begin phase one. This high-speed network is supposed to reduce the journey between Portugal's largest cities, Lisbon and Porto, from almost three hours to about one hour and 15 minutes.



## WHY JAPAN'S RAIL NETWORK IS ONE OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD

The Japanese have seemed to master the art of the high-speed rail. With their unmatched efficiency, punctuality, accessibility, and experience, there seems to be no competition. For example, most trains in Japan depart and arrive to the second, with delays not extending more than 30 seconds. In addition, Japan's railway has an extensive reach, connecting almost every corner of the country. Despite the complex designs these trains have, they still have zero fatalities due to derailments or collisions, even while going 200 mph. These trains are also extremely clean and comfortable, making them a preferred form of transportation for locals and tourists alike.



## CHINA CLAIMS NEW MAGLEV WORLD RECORD

China recently announced their maglev train prototype reached a speed of approximately 404 mph in just 7 seconds. This prototype, tested at the High-Speed Magnetic Levitation Electromagnetic Propulsion Technology Innovation Centre in central China, set the world record speed on June 17th, 2025. The director, Li Weichao, said they used advanced short-distance boost technology, and they achieved positioning accuracy within a 4 mm margin. In addition, they utilized electromagnetic boost breaks and precise speed measurement and positioning systems to safely break. The new goal for this project is to reach speeds of 497 mph.



## STEPS TAKEN TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST BULLET TRAIN

A bullet train connecting Limpopo to Gauteng in northeastern South Africa is making strides towards becoming a reality. First announced in 2023, the project is currently working on the feasibility and environmental impact studies. Currently it takes about six hours by car to travel the 310-mile route, which would be reduced to 90 minutes by high-speed rail. Construction is expected to begin in 2026 and be operational by 2030. The South African government has already committed funds towards expanding their traditional rail network.



## NIGERIA MOVES FORWARD WITH \$60B HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT

A new project has begun in Nigeria: a \$60 billion high-speed rail network, led by De-Sadel Nigeria Ltd. in partnership with China Liancai Petroleum Investment Holdings, and funded by the Asia Development Investment Bank. This rail network is planned to connect Lagos, Abuja, Kano, and Port Harcourt. Construction is set to take place in multiple phases as to allow early segments to begin operation before full completion. The first phase is expected to be completed within 36 months, covering 1,600 km (994 miles). The overall project is set to cover 4,000 km (2485.5 miles) and it aims to reduce travel times, boost trade, and attract investment to the country.





# TULARE STREET UNDERPASS

LATEST VIDEOS: [WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CAHIGHSPEEDRAIL](http://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CAHIGHSPEEDRAIL)



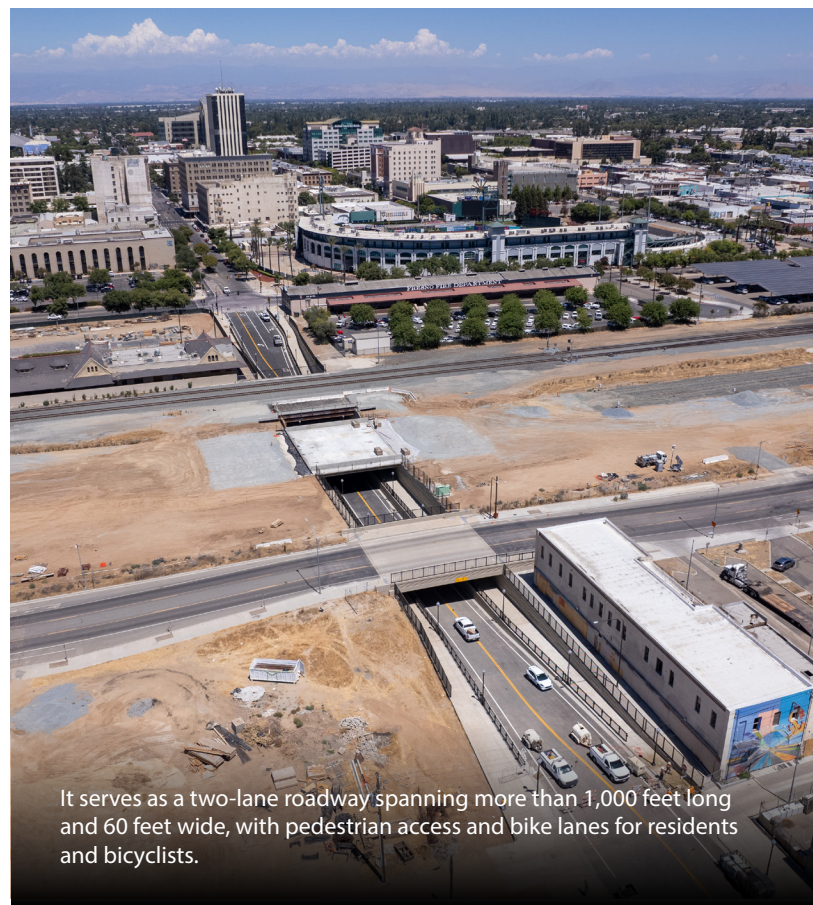
The Tulare Street underpass and grade separation project is located between G and H streets, between downtown and Fresno's Chinatown.



This structure was constructed by Construction Package 1 design-builder, Tutor-Perini/Zachry/Parsons.



The grade separation now takes vehicular traffic more than 20 feet below the Union Pacific and future high-speed rail tracks.



It serves as a two-lane roadway spanning more than 1,000 feet long and 60 feet wide, with pedestrian access and bike lanes for residents and bicyclists.