High-Speed Rail: Central Valley at a Glance

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is continuing construction while partnering with local agencies, community members, business owners and other key stakeholders to build the nation’s first high-speed rail system.

High-speed rail is already happening in the Central Valley, with construction now spanning 119 miles across Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern counties. The Authority plans to extend this 119-mile segment into Merced and Bakersfield.

The 171-mile Merced-Bakersfield line will carry more riders and deliver the most mobility, environmental and economic benefits for the lowest cost. Testing of the initial electrified high-speed rail line is planned to commence in 2025.

JOBS
Historically, the Central Valley’s economy has lagged behind the rest of the state. Now, investment in high-speed rail is helping to close the gap.

- More than 5,000 construction jobs have been created with the help of the State Building and Construction Trades Council, the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board and other groups.
- 30% of all project work hours are to be performed by National Targeted Workers (someone who lives within an economically distressed area, such as the Central Valley).
- In the city of Selma, the Central Valley Training Center opened to help students prepare for careers in more than 10 different construction-industry trades.

CLEAN AIR
The Central Valley Basin doesn’t meet current clean-air objectives.

- The Authority partnered with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District as one of the means to achieve the project’s goal of net-zero greenhouse gas and criteria pollutant emissions.
- Contractors must use Tier 4 construction equipment or equipment retrofitted to achieve comparable standards throughout the project.

An interagency agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is in place to plant trees through the Forestry Assistance and Urban and Community Forestry programs.

RECONNECTING THE STATE
Home to nearly seven million people, the Central Valley is one of the fastest growing regions in the state.

- As the backbone of the State Rail Plan, high-speed rail will connect the region to the rest of California.
- More than $6 billion in total construction expenditures to date.

STATION PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
The Authority continues to work with local partners to develop station area plans based around proposed high-speed rail centers.
Merced Station
- Located adjacent to State Route 99 and the Union Pacific Railroad line on Martin Luther King Jr. Way/State Route 59 and the State Route 99 interchange
- Serves downtown Merced, UC Merced, Merced County and the upper Central Valley

Madera Stop
- Located on Ave. 19 in Madera
- Serves Madera county, connection point to Amtrak and Altamont Corridor Express services

Fresno Station
- Located in downtown area on H Street between Fresno and Tulare streets
- Serves downtown Fresno, Fresno and Madera counties

Kings/Tulare Station
- Located near the intersection of State Routes 198 and 43
- Serves Hanford, Visalia and Lemoore

Bakersfield Station
- Project area is generally bounded by F Street to the west, 38th Street to the north, Union Avenue to the east and California Avenue to the south
- Vision Plan is intended to benefit the entire community—adoption of the plan will help streamline future downtown development
- Serves Bakersfield and Kern County

CONSTRUCTION PACKAGES
The Authority executed three design-build construction contracts for the Central Valley Segment of the high-speed rail system.

Construction Package 1 (CP 1) (32 miles)
Design-builder: Tutor-Perini/Zachry/Parsons
Segment stretches between Avenue 19 in Madera County and East American Avenue in Fresno County. Includes 12 grade separations, four viaducts, a trench that will take trains under State Route 180, a major river crossing over the San Joaquin River and a pergola structure spanning the Union Pacific Railroad in north Fresno.

Construction Package 2-3 (CP 2-3) (65 miles)
Design-builder: Dragados-Flatiron Joint Venture
Segment is a corridor between East American Avenue in Fresno County and one mile north of the Tulare-Kern County line. Includes 36 grade separations within the counties of Fresno, Tulare and Kings, including viaducts, underpasses and overpasses.

Construction Package 4 (CP 4) (22 miles)
Design-builder: California Rail Builders
Segment stretches between one mile north of the Tulare-Kern County line and Poplar Avenue in Kern County. Includes construction of at-grade embankments, retained fill overcrossings and viaducts.