

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 megaregions, starting with the Merced to Bakersfield line as the first part of a building block approach. This high-profile project has generated significant publicity, leading to speculation and rumor. It is important to separate fact from fiction.

Myth: High-speed rail will be a train to nowhere.



Fact:

The California high-speed rail system will connect 6 of the 10 largest cities in the state.

Myth: High-speed rail will not be high-speed.

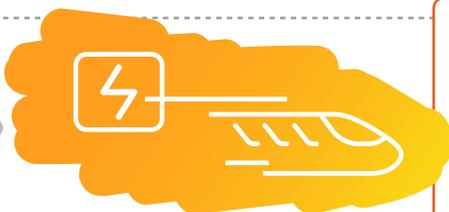


Fact:

In blended/shared corridors, trains will be slowed to 110 miles per hour, as required by regulations.

However, speeds will top 220 miles per hour in other areas.

Myth: California High-Speed Rail will be diesel-powered.



Fact:

It will be all electric, all the time.

High-speed rail in California will run on 100% renewable energy.

Myth: No one rides trains anymore.



Fact:

Other countries with high-speed rail systems service 1.6 billion passengers per year.

Amtrak's California corridors are among the busiest in the nation, with 11.5 million people boarding and departing from California's trains in 2019.

Myth: High-speed rail is a waste of money. We can expand our roads and airports.



Fact:

Providing the same people-carrying capacity as high-speed rail from San Francisco to Los Angeles would require 4,200 new highway lane miles, 91 additional airport gates and two new airport runways costing between \$122 billion and \$199 billion, not including operations and maintenance costs; significantly more expensive than the \$77 billion to \$113 billion range for the high-speed rail system.*

*High-speed rail figure based on a cost forecasting/escalation for 2050. Highway/airport figure from 2019 report is based on pre-COVID-19 travel assumptions, the 2018 Travel Demand Model and Caltrans planning assumptions from 2019.

Myth: High-speed rail is a solution in search of a problem.



Fact:

California's population is projected to grow to more than 45 million by 2050. Transportation is a key contributor to emissions, and Los Angeles and San Francisco rank among the most gridlocked U.S. cities. The high-speed rail system is a key component of achieving net-zero emissions by transforming and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector, helping California achieve its climate goals.



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