

# 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 mega-regions, starting with the Merced-Fresno-Bakersfield line as the first part of a building block approach. This high-profile project has garnered a lot of publicity leading to speculation and rumor, making it important to separate fact from fiction.

**Myth: High-speed rail is dead in California.**



**Fact:**

Our 2020 Business Plan presents our vision for initiating high-speed rail service in California as soon as possible while positioning ourselves to construct additional segments as funding becomes available. **We continue to make strides on construction in the Central Valley while moving forward with systemwide environmental clearance and planning in Northern and Southern California.**

**Myth: No one is going to ride high-speed rail if it's just in the Central Valley.**



**Fact:**

The 171-mile line from Merced to Fresno to Bakersfield connects the three largest cities in California's Central Valley, a region of about 6 million people, including three major California universities. Passengers traveling through this corridor on to other destinations in Northern and Southern California will be able to make convenient connections in Merced and in Bakersfield.

**Myth: High-speed rail won't go past the Central Valley.**

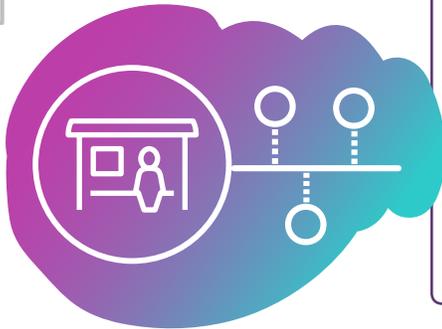
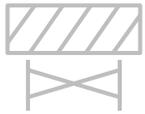


**Fact:**

High-speed rail is starting with an initial 171-mile segment that will extend from Merced to Bakersfield. At the same time, we are continuing to move forward with environmental clearance in Northern California and Southern California to get these project sections ready for construction. The Authority continues to invest in projects in Northern and Southern California that will provide near-term regional mobility benefits and lay the foundation for high-speed rail service.



**Myth: There's no way to get from the Central Valley to San Francisco or Los Angeles.**

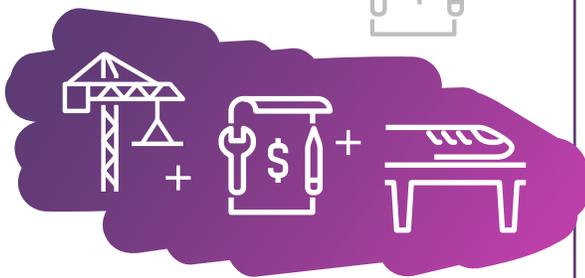


**Fact:**

As part of the statewide rail modernization plan, high-speed rail will become the backbone of rail transportation in California.

**High-speed rail in the Central Valley will allow travelers to access the Altamont Corridor Express service in Merced, which will soon have service to San Jose and the east Bay Area; the Amtrak San Joaquin's service to Oakland and Sacramento; and connections from Bakersfield to Southern California.**

**Myth: High-speed rail is just a jobs program.**



**Fact:**

**High-speed rail is creating jobs, but that's only part of the story.**

Building the high-speed rail system to link the Bay Area to Los Angeles and Anaheim, including the communities in the Central Valley, is essential for California to maintain its position as a global leader when it comes to economic prosperity and opportunity, job creation, combating climate change and building world-class infrastructure.

**Myth: High-speed rail has given up on San Francisco and Los Angeles.**



**Fact:**

The interim operating segment between Merced and Bakersfield is the first building block for delivering high-speed rail passenger service in California. While we build that segment, we are also advancing design and environmental work statewide to prepare to expand the system out of the Valley, northwest to the Bay Area and south to Los Angeles and Anaheim, as funding becomes available.

**We remain committed to bookend investments including the Caltrain Electrification Project in Northern California and Link US at Los Angeles Union Station.**



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