



Press Release

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High-Speed Rail CEO Honored at the 55th Annual Transportation Research Forum

SAN JOSE, Calif. – California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) CEO Jeff Morales was presented with the President’s Award today at the 55th Annual Transportation Research Forum’s (TRF) Awards Luncheon at the Sainte Claire Hotel.

TRF President Jack Ventura said Morales was selected for the President’s Award because of his commitment to moving forward with the nation’s first high-speed rail project. “We are honored that Jeff Morales has agreed to accept the President’s Award” said Ventura. “We chose him in large part because of the role he is playing in forging ahead with this important project despite the challenges high-speed rail has encountered in this country. Any success of high-speed rail will owe greatly to his efforts and his vision.”

The TRF’s President Award recognizes individuals in transportation who have made significant contributions to the practice of transportation management, operations, planning, finance, public policy and other areas of professional endeavor. Individuals selected for this award have exhibited leadership and innovation on a regional or national scale that has resulted in improved mobility of freight and/or people.

Past honorees include Congressman John L. Mica, Don Schneider, Fred Smith, Daniel O’Neal, Herb Kelleher and Darius W. Gaskins, Jr.

Morales, who joined the Authority in May 2012, has a long and distinguished record of experience managing large and complex transportation issues and projects. As the former Director of the California Department of Transportation, Morales managed a \$10 billion program and more than 23,000 employees working to build, maintain and operate the largest state transportation system in the U.S.

Morales formerly served as the Executive Director of the Chicago Transit Authority, where he spearheaded major reforms at the nation’s second-largest transit agency. His work on the federal include: serving as a member of President-Elect Obama’s transition team focusing on transportation, Vice President Al Gore’s National Performance Review, the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security, the United States Department of Transportation and U.S. Senate staff.

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About California High-Speed Rail Authority

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is responsible for planning, designing, building and operation of the first high-speed rail system in the nation. California high-speed rail will connect the mega-

regions of the state, contribute to economic development and a cleaner environment, create jobs and preserve agricultural and protected lands. By 2029, the system will run from San Francisco to the Los Angeles basin in under three hours at speeds capable of over 200 miles per hour. The system will eventually extend to Sacramento and San Diego, totaling 800 miles with up to 24 stations. In addition, the Authority is working with regional partners to implement a statewide rail modernization plan that will invest billions of dollars in local and regional rail lines to meet the state's 21st century transportation needs. To learn more visit the Authority's website at <http://www.hsr.ca.gov> and join us on [facebook.com/CaliforniaHighSpeedRail](https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaHighSpeedRail) and follow us at twitter.com/cahsra