

# Appendix C: Scoping Meeting Announcements

## Welcome to the start of a new vision!

Imagine a train that can whisk you from Stockton to San Jose in about an hour. A train that connects to BART and other transit services so you can travel car-free, avoiding the clogged freeways any time of day. A train that can bring new jobs and economic vitality to the Central Valley, Tri-Valley and Bay Area! The possibilities are exciting, so let's get started!

The vision is to transform our existing Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) into the new **Altamont Corridor Express**—a faster, expanded intercity service with better regional connections and a dramatically streamlined system. The goal is to run state-of-the-art electric trains that will be more comfortable, faster, cleaner and greener. The system will work for our communities on many levels, allowing quick trips between cities, commuter access to job centers, easy connections to local transit systems, and access to California's planned High-Speed Train network.

To get things started, we've formed the Altamont Corridor Partnership Working Group, a coalition of transit providers and local government agencies. The group is providing local guidance and technical support to the project co-sponsors: the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, which operates ACE, and the California High-Speed Rail Authority. With local partners in place and a commitment by the Federal Railroad Administration to lead a formal environmental review process, we are ready to get underway.

The critical next step is you! We can't get this off the drawing board—or create a truly community-serving project—without active involvement of local residents. At this point we have developed goals and objectives, as well as a general description of the project, and hired AECOM as the engineering consultant. However, no specific train routes or station stops have been formally identified.

Your input is needed to identify potential routes and station locations, as well as the issues and concerns which will be addressed as the project moves forward. You will be using it, so you should help design it! The project is just beginning to take shape, so now is the ideal time to get involved in the planning process. You can start by attending one of the Public Scoping Meetings in November. Please join us! And bring your neighbors! Many thanks,

*The Altamont Corridor Partnership Working Group*





## Connecting Communities

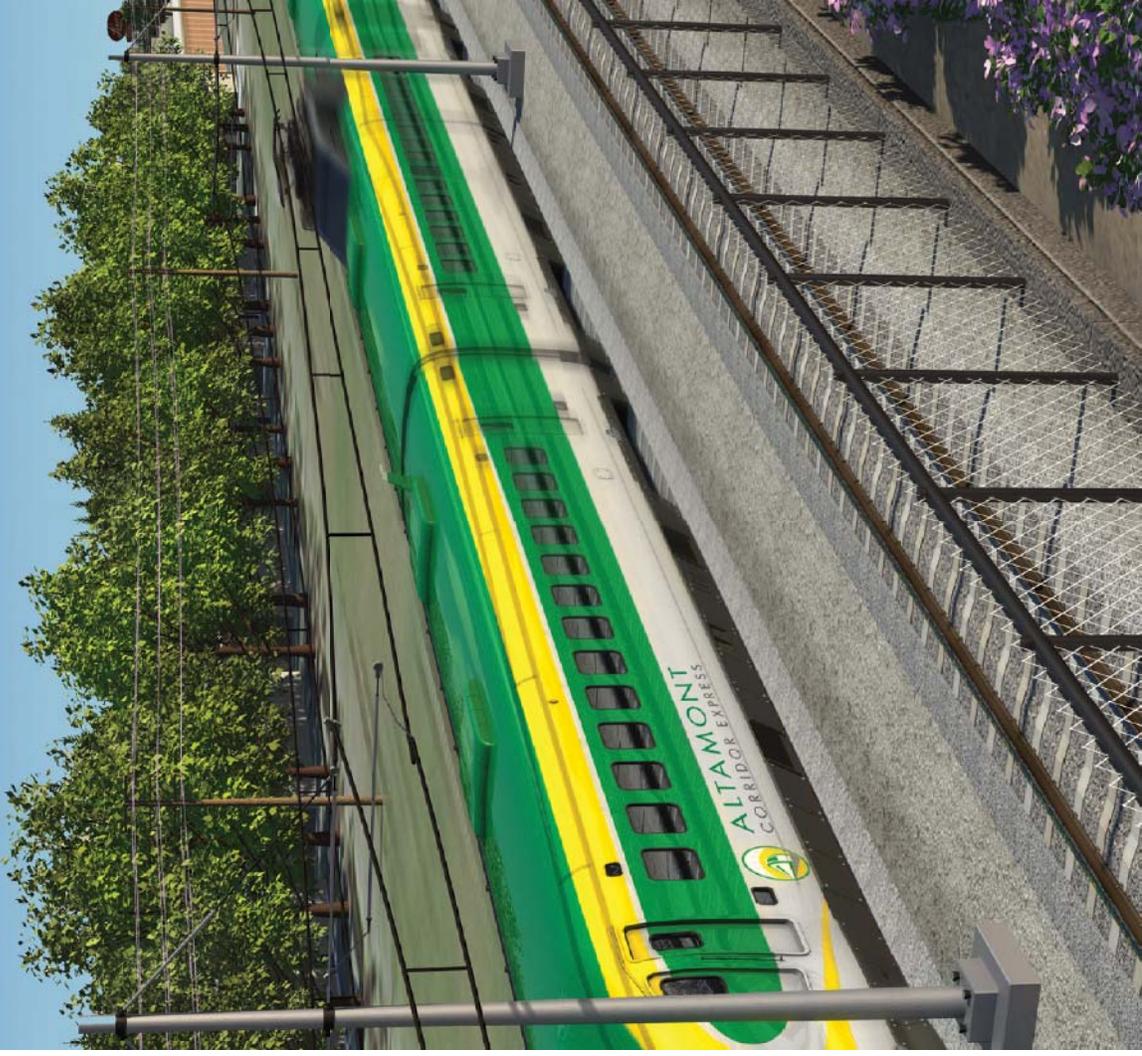
The Altamont Corridor Rail Project will provide a vital link in the regional transit network, connecting our communities like never before. The project will create a dedicated passenger train corridor between Stockton and San Jose, with stops in key cities in between. A spur link to Modesto is also a possibility. The project study area is shown above, along with opportunities for strategic intercity rail connectivity. Specific route alignments and station locations will be identified through a community-based planning process. Once developed, alternative scenarios will be evaluated through the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report.

The project could allow operation of trains between the Bay Area and points north including Stockton and Sacramento, as well as points south including Modesto and beyond, within the California High-Speed Train system. The project will provide intermodal connections to Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) to serve the Oakland Airport, cities of Oakland and San Francisco, as well as other Bay Area communities. Intermodal connections to BART could be located in the Livermore vicinity, should the Dublin/Pleasanton BART line be extended, as well as in the Fremont/Union City area, meeting either the Fremont line or planned Warm Springs/San Jose extension.

The Altamont Corridor Rail Project could also accommodate a future connection to the Dumbarton rail service in the Fremont/Union City area, as well as connect to the Valley Transportation Authority light rail in Santa Clara County. The project will coordinate with local bus services, providing access to proximate market areas and interfacing with regional bus links where appropriate. Whether for intercity trips, daily commutes, or access to the statewide High-Speed Train system, the Altamont Corridor Rail Project will serve our communities like never before!

“Linking the Central Valley and Bay Area at speeds of 150 mph or higher, the **Altamont Corridor Rail Project** could move people through the region efficiently and would help jumpstart high speed economic recovery for our area.”

– Cathleen Galgiani, Assemblywoman



# Public Scoping Meetings

Please join us at one of the upcoming public meetings to learn more about the Altamont Corridor Rail Project and help kick off the environmental review process. You are invited to come talk with project planners, have your questions answered, and share your suggestions about potential routes, stations, and more. We'd also like to hear your input on community priorities and the scope of issues that should be considered in the environmental impact analysis. The meetings will be open house style, so feel free to drop in anytime between 3:00–8:00pm. We hope to see you there!

## 3:00 – 8:00pm Open House

**November 10, 2009**

**Livermore**

Robert Livermore Community Center  
4444 East Avenue  
Livermore, CA

**November 12, 2009**

**Stockton**

San Joaquin Council of Governments  
555 E. Weber Avenue  
Stockton, CA

**November 17, 2009**

**Fremont**

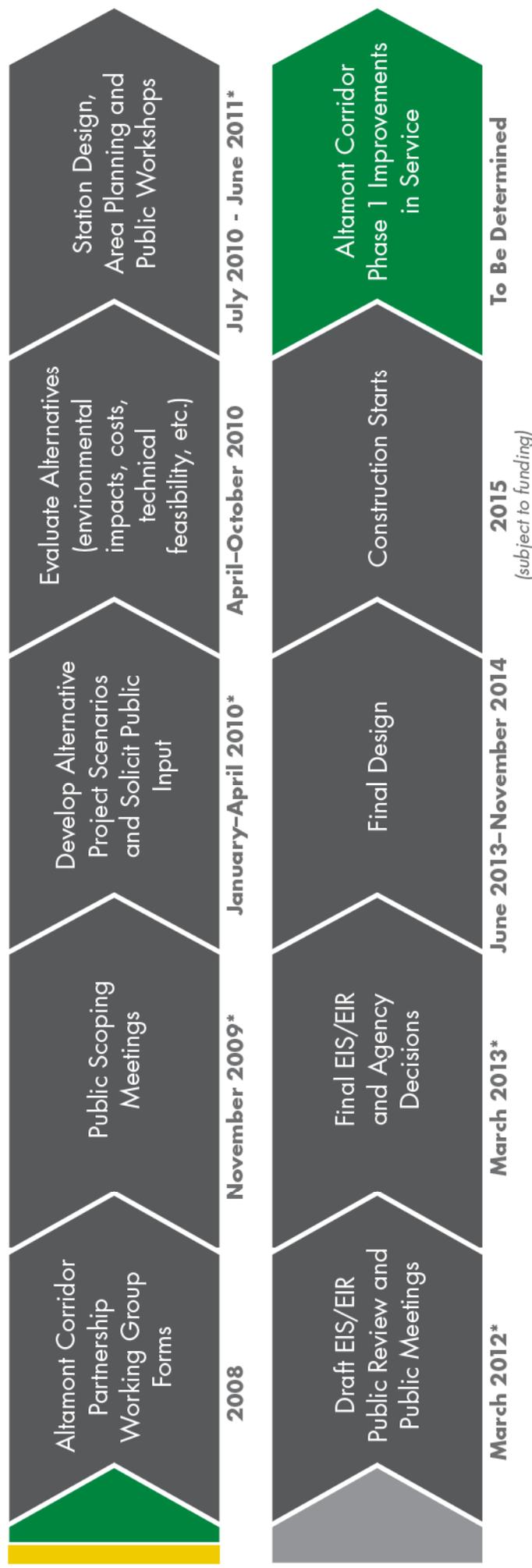
Fremont Teen Center  
39770 Paseo Padre Parkway  
Fremont, CA

**November 18, 2009**

**San Jose**

Le Petit Trianon Theatre  
72 North Fifth Street  
San Jose, CA

# Planning Timeline—It's a Process



\*Opportunities for public input.

Dates are estimates and may change as the project progresses. Check website for latest timeline!

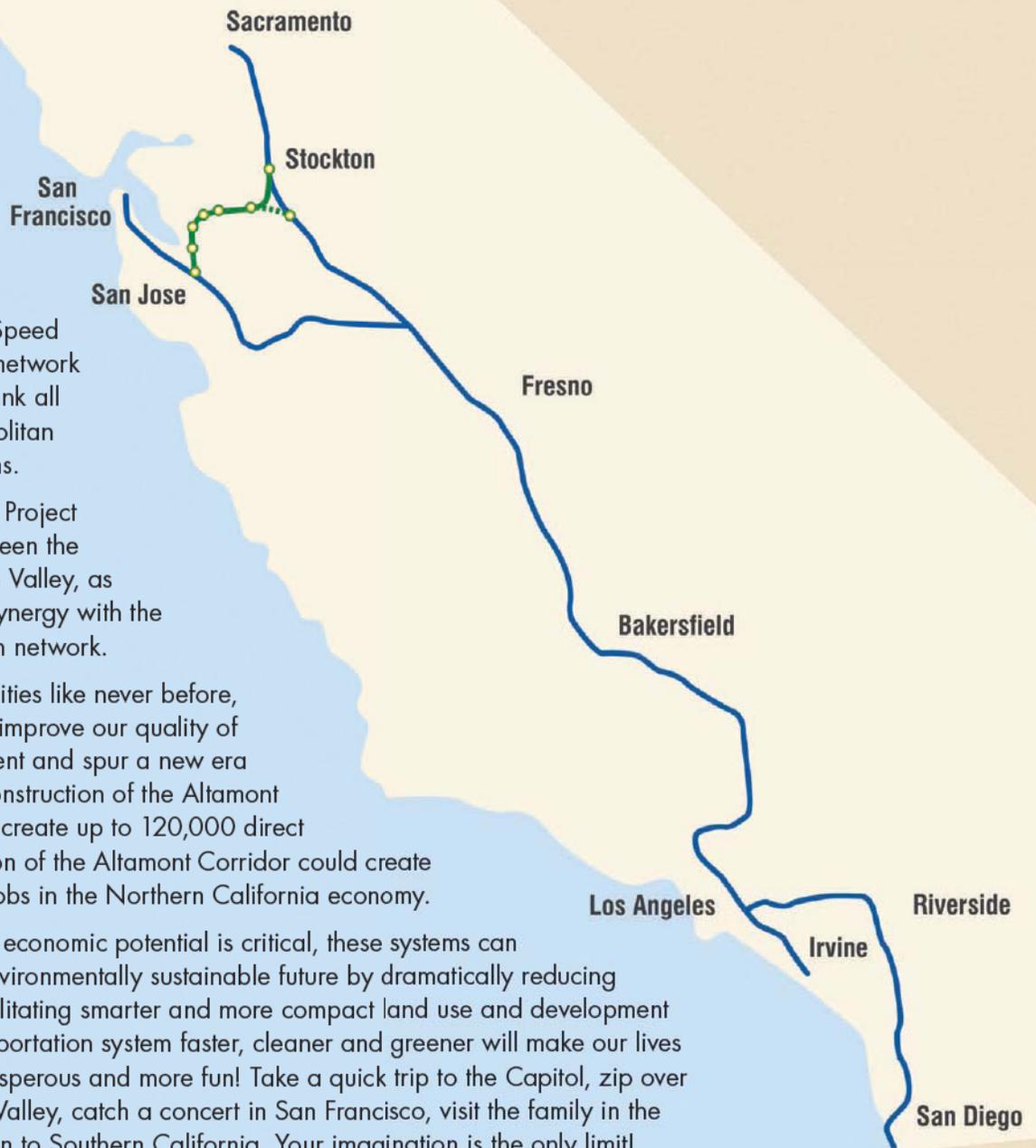
# The **Altamont Corridor Rail Project** Generates **Synergy** with California High-Speed Rail

Since the early 1990s, high-speed rail in California has been envisioned as a bold new way to meet the state's growing transportation needs. With approval of Prop 1A in 2008, California voters approved funding needed to move the High-Speed Train system forward. The network is now being designed to link all of the state's major metropolitan areas with high-speed trains.

The Altamont Corridor Rail Project will create a vital link between the Bay Area and San Joaquin Valley, as well as generate exciting synergy with the statewide High-Speed Train network.

By connecting our communities like never before, we create opportunities to improve our quality of life, enhance the environment and spur a new era of economic prosperity. Construction of the Altamont Corridor Rail Project could create up to 120,000 direct and indirect jobs. Operation of the Altamont Corridor could create up to 60,000 permanent jobs in the Northern California economy.

While unlocking our future economic potential is critical, these systems can also help create a more environmentally sustainable future by dramatically reducing greenhouse gases and facilitating smarter and more compact land use and development patterns. Making our transportation system faster, cleaner and greener will make our lives more convenient, more prosperous and more fun! Take a quick trip to the Capitol, zip over to your new job in Silicon Valley, catch a concert in San Francisco, visit the family in the Central Valley, or hop down to Southern California. Your imagination is the only limit!



# Environmental Review Kicks Off:

## We need YOUR input!

The Federal Railroad Administration and California High-Speed Rail Authority will serve as lead agencies in jointly preparing an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the proposed Altamont Corridor Rail Project. The project EIS/EIR will comply with relevant state and federal laws, in particular the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (CEQA and NEPA). A wide range of issues will be considered, including potential impacts on wildlife and natural habitats, public safety and local circulation, plus noise and vibration impacts in communities, climate change considerations, land use planning and development around train stations, and many other topics.

At this early stage, we are launching a scoping process to invite public comments about the project and issues that should be considered in the environmental analysis. Scoping is a direct opportunity for public involvement, allowing the community to engage in the process, influence planning and design of the project, and voice topics of concern. You can start by attending one of the scoping meetings to get an overview of the Altamont Corridor Rail Project. There you will learn more about the planning process that will be used to identify a range of alternative rail alignments and station locations, which will be evaluated in the EIS/EIR. Public involvement will also help ensure that important environmental and social issues are identified early in the process.

## Sharing Your Comments

You may share your comments **in person** at the public scoping meetings, or:



Submit **written comments** to:  
Dan Leavitt, Deputy Director  
Attn: Altamont Corridor Rail Project  
925 L Street, Suite 1425  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 322-0827



Send comments via **email** to:  
comments@hsr.ca.gov  
Include in the subject line:  
"Altamont Corridor Rail Project"

Please submit comments by **December 4, 2009**.

The Federal Railroad Administration, California High-Speed Rail Authority, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission and Altamont Corridor Partnership Working Group value input from community members, which will help to shape the project and inform the decision making process along the way. We look forward to hearing from you!

For more information, updates on community input opportunities, or to join the mailing list, please visit: [www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov](http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov)

# The Ace of the Future

The vision is to transform the existing ACE service into a modern, efficient and streamlined system. The future Altamont Corridor Express will speed intercity travelers and commuters from the Central Valley to the Silicon Valley faster than ever before—cutting the current 2 hour plus trip down to about 1 hour. Trains will run frequently in both directions all day long, with more frequent service during peak travel times. Modern trains will carry passengers between cities along the Altamont Corridor Rail line at speeds up to 150 mph or more across the countryside. New connections to regional transit systems will create opportunities to travel entirely car-free! In addition to improving the travel time, frequency and reliability of the existing ACE service in the near term, there is also potential to operate Sacramento-to-San Jose or Merced-to-San Jose regional limited trains when the California High-Speed Train network is completed in the future.



	<b>Existing</b> Altamont Commuter Express	<b>Future</b> Altamont Corridor Express
Top Speed	79 mph	<b>150 +/- mph</b>
Travel Time: Stockton to San Jose	2 hrs 10 minutes	<b>55 minutes to 1 hour 15 minutes</b>
Train Type	Diesel locomotives hauling standard bi-level passenger coaches	Streamlined lightweight electric multiple-unit trains, <b>reclining seats</b> , workstations
Operations	Subject to railroad delays waiting for freight trains to clear the tracks	New tracks will be separate from freight, so <b>no delays</b>
Schedule	4 trains per day each way, predominantly westbound in the morning and eastbound in the afternoon/evening	<b>Frequent service</b> —hourly service in both directions all day long, extra trains during rush hour
Transit Connections	Amtrak, Caltrain, Capitol Corridor, Valley Transportation Authority Light Rail	<b>Additional connections</b> to BART, future California High-Speed Trains, future Dumbarton Rail
Alignment	At-grade street crossings, cars must stop to wait for trains to pass	Dedicated grade-separated tracks mean greater public safety and <b>no local traffic delays</b>

# Funding Strategies

The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission and California High-Speed Rail Authority have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly develop the project and actively seek funding from local, state and federal sources. To get things started, the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission has allocated seed money from local resources. California voters approved Proposition 1A in 2008, which expressly designates the Altamont Corridor as eligible for funding with California's High-Speed Rail Bonds. The State has also submitted a request for "stimulus" funding to the Federal Railroad Administration (per the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act), which could be applied to the Altamont Corridor Rail Project planning and environmental effort. We are hopeful that, if awarded, this could be an initial down payment and that the Obama Administration may provide additional funding in future transportation bill reauthorizations for design and construction of the Altamont project. While this could be a truly exciting and rare opportunity, the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission and California High-Speed Rail Authority will continue to pursue funding for project development and implementation from a wide variety of sources, including our own local communities.



Newsletter design by AECOM. Visual simulations by NC3D and AECOM.



**THE ALTAMONT**  
CORRIDOR RAIL PROJECT

# Partners in Planning

The Altamont Corridor Partnership Working Group is a driving force for this project, providing vital leadership and technical expertise. Comprised mainly of transportation agencies and local government councils, the group includes the San Joaquin Council of Governments, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, Great Valley Center, Tri-Valley Regional Rail Policy Advisory Committee, Alameda County Congestion Management Agency and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, along with service providers including Altamont Commuter Express, BART, SamTrans, Capitol Corridor, and Caltrain. The Working Group was created to collaborate with the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission and California High-Speed Rail Authority in exploring a new intercity passenger rail system in the region with a broader mission—one that could dramatically improve local intercity service, speed commuters between the Central Valley and Bay Area, and provide access to the California High-Speed Train system. The Working Group recognizes the importance of the corridor for meeting urgent transportation needs and has defined goals, objectives and basic parameters for the project. Most importantly, the Working Group has agreed to continue guiding the project as it moves forward in the planning and implementation process.



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Railroad  
Administration**



**CALIFORNIA  
High-Speed Rail Authority**



**SAN JOAQUIN  
REGIONAL  
RAIL COMMISSION**

**ACE**  
ALTAMONT COMMUTER EXPRESS



**BART  
ba**



California Partnership for the  
San Joaquin Valley



**TRI-VALLEY REGIONAL RAIL  
POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

For more information, to share your comments, or join the mailing list, please visit: [www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov](http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov)



# THE ALTAMONT CORRIDOR RAIL PROJECT

*Click here to  
learn more about this  
exciting project!*



## Public Scoping Meetings

Please join us at one of the upcoming meetings to learn about the new Altamont Corridor Rail Project and kick off the environmental review process. This exciting project could provide faster intercity and commuter train service between Stockton and San Jose via the Altamont Pass, as well as links to BART, California High-Speed Trains and other transit. A link to Modesto is also a possibility. Come talk with project planners and share your ideas about potential routes and station stops. The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission and other agencies are providing local leadership and encourage public involvement to help plan a great project.

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## Project Overview

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