



SAN FRANCISCO TO SAN JOSE PHASED IMPLEMENTATION FACT SHEET

Background

The California High-Speed Rail Authority Board voted in December 2010 to begin construction of the high speed train system connecting Los Angeles to the Bay Area in the heart of the state's Central Valley, choosing an option that makes the best use of available funding and lays the foundation for expanding the system both north and south. This designation allows the San Francisco-San Jose section additional time to study many of the complex issues related to developing high speed train service along a shared corridor.

Phased Implementation

To meet this goal, the Authority, in partnership with Caltrain and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), will develop a phased implementation approach for High Speed Train (HST) service between San Francisco and San Jose. This is a positive opportunity to collaborate with local and regional agencies, and the communities to incorporate a phased implementation approach into the project environmental documentation.

The phased implementation approach will enable the Authority, Caltrain, the FRA, other agencies and stakeholders to study how to provide initial HST service between San Francisco and San Jose in the most cost effective manner and as soon as possible to coincide with the initiation of HST service to San Jose via the Central Valley.

The environmental document will address both the infrastructure needed for HST service between San Francisco and San Jose in 2035 and initial infrastructure needs. Phased implementation approach will allow for more time to consider the design refinement of later phases of the ultimate build alternative as they are implemented.

Initial Operating Project

The phased implementation approach would support early initial operations with the minimum infrastructure required to support an initial level of HST service. The potential environmental impacts of an initial phase of operations will be evaluated as part of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Study (DEIR/S) document. Sharing existing Caltrain track for initial HST operations while maintaining Caltrain service adds complexity and requires careful planning, and collaboration.

Extended DEIR/S Timeline

To accommodate this effort, the timeline for the public release of the draft environmental document for the San Francisco to San Jose section has been extended to the fall of 2012. The additional time will ensure that communities and stakeholders have the opportunity to learn more about the project and what it means for their communities and then provide informed input on the DEIR/S during the public comment period in the fall of 2012.