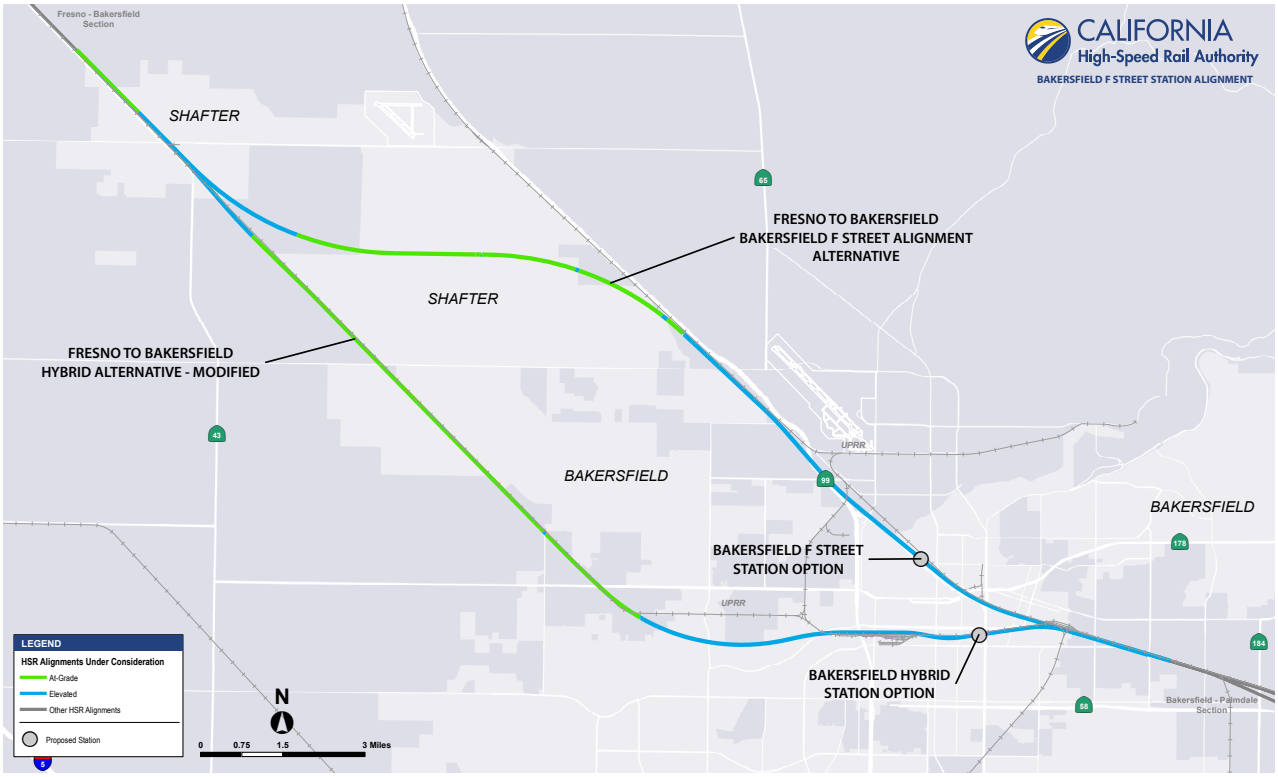
FALL 2015

CALIFORNIA High-Speed Rail Authority

Bakersfield F Street Station Alignment (BFSSA)

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is currently working closely with the cities of Bakersfield and Shafter, as well as local residents, stakeholders and regulatory agencies to study the Bakersfield F Street Station Alignment (BFSSA). The BFSSA includes a station at the intersection of F Street and Golden State Avenue.

As a result of a settlement agreement between the City of Bakersfield and the Authority, this locally generated alternative has been developed in cooperation with the City and will be studied along with the approved Bakersfield Hybrid Alternative in a supplemental environmental document.



BACKGROUND:

In May 2014, the Authority's Board of Directors certified a Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Fresno to Bakersfield Project Section. The document identified a preferred alignment from the Fresno high-speed rail station to the Bakersfield high-speed rail station located at Truxtun Avenue.

In June 2014, the City of Bakersfield filed a lawsuit challenging the approval under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). As a result, the Authority and the City continued meeting in an effort to resolve the issues addressed by the litigation. In December 2014, the Authority and the City announced that they would study an alternative alignment and a high-speed rail station at F Street and that the City agreed to dismiss their CEQA lawsuit.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS:

Development of the supplemental environmental document for the BFSSA is advancing and a draft is anticipated for release in the Spring of 2016, which will include public hearings, agency and public comment opportunities. The supplemental environmental document will evaluate the potential effects associated with the BFSSA and will provide a comparison of the BFSSA and the Bakersfield Hybrid Alternative. This ongoing planning process will continue to include public involvement opportunities.

www.hsr.ca.gov | (559) 445-6776 | fresno_bakersfield@hsr.ca.gov

ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is responsible for planning, designing, building and operating the first high-speed rail system in the nation. California's electric 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.

CURRENT PROGRAM STATUS

Phase 1 of the high-speed rail system will provide fast, safe and reliable connections between counties and cities from the Bay Area and the Central Valley to the Los Angeles basin. Phase 2 will add further connections to Sacramento and San Diego.

Major activities are underway now:

- Construction in the Central Valley
- Planning and/or environmental clearance of remaining sections
- Planning for the Phase 2 System
- Implementation of a statewide rail modernization plan, in partnership with local stakeholders that invests billions of dollars in local and regional rail lines.

BENEFITS OF THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROGRAM

- Curbs congestion on California roadways and at airports – some of the busiest in the nation.
- Prepares the state for a projected population of 50 million by 2050.
- Connects the major regions of the state – the Bay Area, the Central Valley and Southern California – and ties their economies together.
- Connects businesses with customers, and broadens opportunities for workers, employers, students and visitors.
- Creates thousands of construction and long-term jobs in the Central Valley.
- Benefits the environment by improving air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Encourages sustainable community planning through smart land use and station-oriented development, which can also reduce pressure to convert farmland and other natural areas to development.

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