



Policy Framework

Californians For High Speed Rail (CA4HSR) was formed to promote the construction of a high speed rail (HSR) system designed for the people of California and for the betterment of the environment. To that end, CA4HSR will support the planning activities of the California High Speed Rail Authority (Authority) where such planning supports the best HSR system for the future riders and the environment. Additionally, where the planning activities of the Authority do not best represent the interest of the future riders of the HSR system and the highest environmental benefit, CA4HSR will work to improve the Authority's planning activities to improve the project.

As the planning and design processes continue, we will speak up for the interests of all Californians and the for the good of the environment, consistent with the following five basic policy principles:

1. Implement Proposition 1A. California voters passed Proposition 1A in 2008 by a clear margin, and we support the construction of a high speed rail system in California, following the parameters it sets forth. These parameters include abiding by the mandated times for express trains, and initially limiting the system to a 24 stations.

Additionally, we support the continued design and construction of the route as currently selected by the California High Speed Rail Authority, consistent with Proposition 1A. The initial system will extension from San Francisco Transbay Transit Center south through San Jose and the San Joaquin Valley cities to Los Angeles and Anaheim. Planned extension will expand the system to Sacramento, Irvine, and San Diego.

2. Build stations downtown. To ensure the success of the California HSR project, HSR stations should be centrally located in the cities they serve. Downtown stations are a critical element of successful HSR systems around the world, and CA4HSR strongly supports building HSR stations in downtowns. If a non-downtown station is to be considered, it must be combined with a commitment from the locality to implement a substantial transit-oriented development plan (i.e. one does not get built without the other).

3. Plan for future transit connections. Comprehensive planning is the key to a successful HSR project in California. The California HSR system should be designed to facilitate the creation of enhanced regional and local transit throughout the state. Therefore CA4HSR advocates that the California High Speed Rail Authority locate and design HSR stations to allow for fast and convenient transfers to existing and future transit.

4. Put passengers first. We support planning the high speed rail system with a focus on the rider experience and ease of use over that of minor cost implications or ideal engineering specifications. Furthermore, we advocate a fare policy that maximizes ridership rather than revenues, so as to make high speed rail accessible to as many Californians as possible, and to capitalize on the environmental benefits high speed rail will bring.

5. Commence service in sections. We support the creation of fully operational sections of the system (independent of the system as a whole) in order to serve as a model of how the system will look and operate once completed.