



## **Section-Specific Policy Document Merced-to-Fresno**

**The following policies represent the positions of Californians For High Speed Rail for a range of issues related to the Merced-to-Fresno section of the project-level environmental review process currently being undertaken by the California High Speed Rail Authority. Note, this policy document may be changed from time to time to reflect evolving policy as implementation of the high speed rail project progresses.**

- We support the development of a downtown Merced high speed rail station along the UPRR ROW (as specified in the program-level EIR). We are also open to a station at UC Merced and Castle Air Force Base, but only if accompanied by high levels of transit-oriented development.
- We support the creation of a HSR/Amtrak transfer station at the site of the future high speed rail station in Merced. The likely location of this will be in downtown Merced along the UPRR ROW. Since this will require the relocation of the existing Amtrak station, we strongly encourage the Authority to include a thorough examination and discussion of such a move and its impacts in the project-level EIR.
- We support the exploration of a bypass around downtown Merced for express trains, possibly adjacent to Highway 99.
- We prefer the use of UPRR/Highway 99 alignment for HSR between Merced and Fresno because it provides the most straight forward access to the preferred downtown station locations in the downtowns of the two cities.