



High-Speed Rail

Rail Infrastructure for the Future

High-Speed Rail is a hyper efficient mode of transportation that can rapidly move large numbers of people along densely developed corridors. High-speed rail technology would allow the U.S. to be more competitive in the global marketplace, while strengthening local economies. However, decades of underinvestment in rail has left the U.S. trailing behind other developed countries.

Out of the 27 countries that operate HSR trains, the U.S. is ranked 19th in operational miles. There is no reason why the rest of the world should have access to better transportation technology than Americans.

High-Speed Benefits

The benefits of high-speed rail extend well beyond speed, creating new jobs, revitalizing big cities and small towns, and increasing economic activity across the U.S.

- **\$4** - The return on economic benefits for every \$1 invested in HSR which supports local communities on HSR lines, as well as the whole country. (Source: APTA)
- **8x efficiency** - HSR is eight times more energy efficient than **air travel**. (Source: UIC)
- **4x efficiency** - HSR is four times more energy efficient than **automobiles**. (Source: UIC)

What People Lose Without High-Speed Rail

Over reliance on driving to get from Point A to Point B is costing Americans time and money. By expanding access to modern high-speed rail, we'll improve Americans' quality of life and their bank statements at the same time.

- **51 hours** – Hours the average American spends stuck in traffic in 2021. (Source: INRIX)
- **\$81 Billion** - The amount of money Americans lost to highway congestion in 2018, an average of \$869 per driver. (Source: INRIX)
- **714 Cars** - The number of cars needed to move the same amount of people as a single, eight-carriage train. (Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics)

Domestic Projects

Since 2010, Congress has failed to provide dedicated high-speed rail grants. However, with several high- and higher-speed projects attempting to make progress, there is a renewed sense of hope.

- **Brightline** is currently testing 125 mph operations on the Miami – Orlando corridor. **Brightline West** recently signed a MOU with local construction trades to build a greenfield corridor between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, with trains capable of reaching 200 MPH.
- **Amtrak** and its partners are making investments in the Northeast Corridor to improve America's only operating high-speed rail service, increasing the maximum speed of the *Acela* to 160 mph, and next-gen *Acela* trainsets will offer best-in-class operating capabilities and customer amenities.
- **The California High-Speed Rail Authority** (CAHSRA) is currently working on over 119 miles of high-speed rail tracks and infrastructure at 35 sites across the Central Valley—providing 7,300 family-wage construction jobs, the majority located in the economically depressed Central Valley.
- Washington State and Oregon are partnering on the **Cascadia High-Speed Rail Corridor**, which will allow for one-hour trips from Seattle, WA to Portland, OR and Vancouver, B.C. Washington State has already allocated \$154 million in state funding for planning and design work, and the two states are applying for federal planning funds through the Corridor ID Program.

Next-Gen Transportation, Current-Gen Benefits

The U.S. has faced serious challenges in building domestic capacity for developing and constructing HSR projects, and several projects are currently struggling to address cost overruns and delays. Even so, investments in HSR infrastructure are already generating tangible benefits to Americans.

- By mid-2020, the California High-Speed Rail Program had invested more than **\$200 million outside California, working with companies from 42 states, plus Washington D.C.:** Colorado - \$31.8 M; Washington State - \$21.9M; New York - \$21.8M; Texas - \$17.3M; New Jersey - \$14.1M; Washington, D.C. - \$11.9M; Oregon - \$12.4M; Pennsylvania - \$9.1M; Massachusetts - \$9M; Illinois - \$6.2M; Virginia - \$5.2M; Utah - \$4.6M; Ohio - \$2.9M; Arizona - \$2.7M; Florida - \$2.6M.
- **Brightline West will create more than 35,000 jobs**—including 10,000 construction jobs and nearly 1,000 permanent operations and maintenance jobs. The project is projected to generate more than \$10 billion in economic impact within California and Nevada.

For more information, please visit RailPassengers.org/Leg.Resources