



CALIFORNIA
High-Speed Rail Authority

JPB Advocacy and Major Projects (AMP) Committee

2026 Draft Business Plan Overview

May 27, 2026

2026 Draft Business Plan

- Lays out the path forward on:
 - » Completion of the Merced to Bakerfield segment
 - » Expansion to major population centers for revenue-positive service
 - » Early asset commercialization to generate additional revenue for continued build out
- Addresses various policies and implementation tools needed to help avoid future construction delays
- Examines full Phase 1 corridor, SF to LA/Anaheim, and lays out a realistic delivery schedule



 CALIFORNIA High-Speed Rail Authority
2026 DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN
Transforming California's Future

Making the Vision a Reality - Merced to Bakersfield

As the initial operating segment, Merced to Bakersfield will serve as the spine of the Phase 1 alignment from San Francisco to the LA Basin



SAVINGS

Rather than start with a full-capacity build, the Authority **saved over \$1 billion** in the Merced-Bakersfield segment by focusing on initial service lowering the total



TRIPS PER DAY

Initial service will begin with a planned **eight trips per day** in both directions.



TRACKS

The Authority will **begin laying down tracks in 2026**.



FARE SERVICE

With tracks & electric system installation in 2026, the Authority anticipates fare service from Merced to Bakersfield **beginning in 2033**.



SAFETY

The project is already having a **positive impact on road safety**, with dozens of new overcrossings opening throughout the area.

Where We Are Today – Merced to Bakersfield Construction Progress



**119 MILES OF
CONSTRUCTION**

100% of parcels delivered
463 miles environmentally
cleared & construction ready



**60 STRUCTURES
COMPLETE**

30 more under construction
16,000+ jobs created
300+ graduates from pre-
apprentice program



**81 MILES OF
GUIDEWAY**

Complete with grade
separations, **wildlife
crossings**, culvert boxes, &
utility relocations



**5 CENTRAL
VALLEY STATIONS**

**Merced, Madera, Fresno,
Kings/Tulare, & Bakersfield**
*All being designed with
community input*

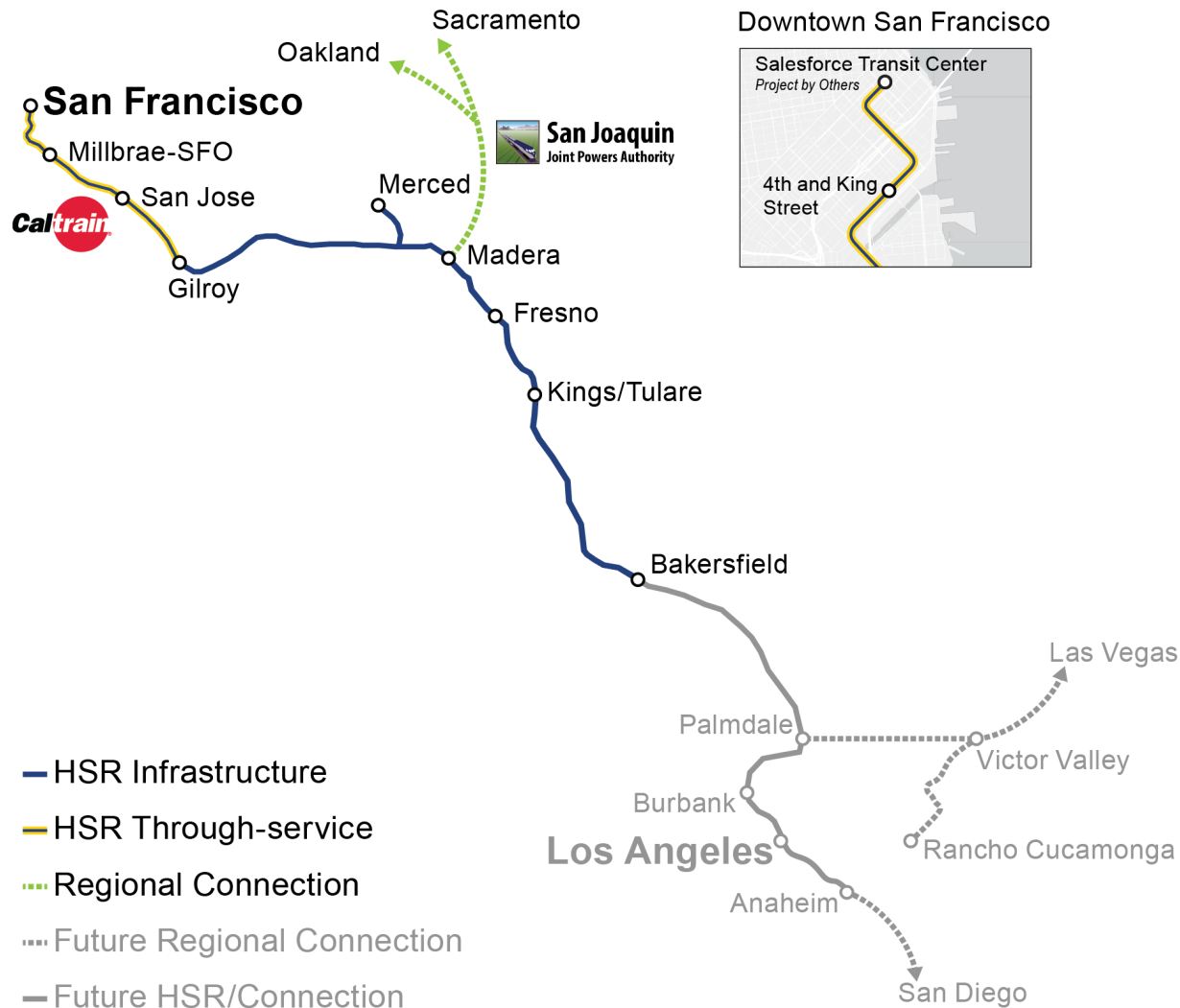


**2026 TRACK
PREPARATION**

Southern Railhead
*Ready for high-speed rail
track installation*

* February 2026 Numbers

Expansion to Population Centers: Central Valley to Bay Area

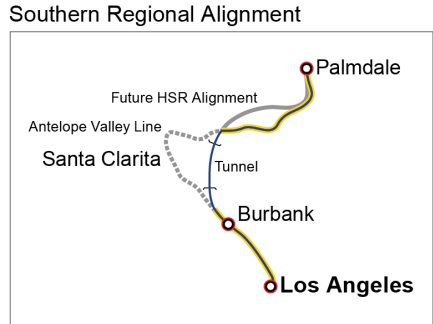


Approach to connecting to the Bay Area:

- Extend the alignment from the Central Valley to Gilroy
- Enables through-service to San Jose and San Francisco via upgraded shared corridors
- Targeted infrastructure improvements will enable through-service:
 - Electrification
 - Signaling upgrades
 - Track capacity improvements
 - Station upgrades

This optimized solution for an early connection to the Bay Area would save tens of billions of dollars in initial investment while still delivering billions in operating profit.

Expansion to Population Centers: Southern California



- HSR Infrastructure
- HSR Through-service
- Express Service
- Regional Connection
- Future HSR/Connection

- Once connected to Palmdale, the Authority is exploring the option of improving and leveraging portions of the existing Metrolink line through the Antelope Valley to Burbank prior to the completion of the full Phase 1 buildout.
- This optimized solution for a connection from SF into the LA Basin would save over a hundred billion dollars in initial investment while still delivering billions in operating profit.
- The connection in Palmdale also offers the future connection to the Las Vegas line via the High Desert Corridor and Brightline West.

Addressing Risk: Targeted Legislative Actions



A targeted approach designed to address critical needs for a mega project of this size and complexity:

- Third party relationships
- Right-of-Way acquisition and delivery
- Environmental clearance and permitting
- Creating a multifaceted utility corridor

Anticipated 2026 Solicitations



Procurement milestones in 2026 include:

- Selecting a private partner to advance a co-development agreement for commercial, technical, and financial solutions (Q2)
- Awarding Track & Systems Construction Contract (Q2)
- Solicitation for progressive design-build contracts for civil work for Merced and Bakersfield extensions (Q2 & Q3)
- Awarding a contract to retrofit and restore the historic Fresno Depot (Q2) and soliciting a design-build contract for the Fresno Station (Q4)