Valley Rail

Project Highlights

- 16 New Stations
- 7 New Daily Round-Trips
- Serves over 30% of the Disadvantaged Communities in California
- GHG Reduction of 5.6 Million Metric Tons of CO₂ by 2027
- Improve Public Health and Reduce Fatalities/Injuries
- New Trainsets for San Joaquins and ACE

TIRCP request improving Central Valley mobility

The San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA) and San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC) has submitted a joint application to the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) for SB 1 and Cap & Trade funding from the 2018 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) for the “Valley Rail” project.

Why is Valley Rail important to California?

Valley Rail improves geographic equity by connecting key locations in the Central Valley including Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, and Fresno Counties to each other and beyond to the Bay Area and the greater California rail network via three future high-speed rail (HSR) connections in Madera, Merced, and San Jose. This transformative, megaregional project helps further the State’s vision for an integrated rail network and provides direct mobility and air quality benefits to citizens in nine counties, including over 30% of the disadvantaged communities in California.

What is Valley Rail?

Valley Rail implements two new daily round-trips for the Amtrak San Joaquins service to better connect San Joaquin Valley travelers with the Sacramento Area, and an extension of Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) between Sacramento and Merced which builds upon ACE funding from Senate Bill (SB) 132. In addition, Valley Rail will convert the entire fleet including the thruway bus network to renewable diesel fuel, providing greenhouse gas (GHG) benefits across the entire existing (449 track miles) and proposed expanded (119 track miles) San Joaquins and ACE services.
What are the benefits of Valley Rail?

**Reduce GHG**
- GHG Emission Reductions of 5.2 MMT of CO₂ by 2025
- Additional 1.9 MMT of CO₂ saved by converting to renewable diesel fuel

**Increase Connectivity**
- Planned San Joaquins and ACE services as part of a regional system, instead of as individual and separate transit offerings
- Introduces increased frequency, broader market reach, regular-interval service, and new connectivity, all of which set the stage for a more fully integrated network

**Reduce VMT and Expand Ridership**
- San Joaquins ridership expands to 1.8 million annual riders in 2025
- ACE ridership expands to 3.1 million annual riders in 2025
- Reduction of 88.4 million vehicle miles traveled by 2025

**Improve Public Health**
- Converting to Tier 4 locomotives will achieve particulate matter reductions of 90%, nitrogen oxide reductions of 80% as well as sizable reductions of VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and CO (carbon monoxide).

**Benefits to Disadvantaged and/or Low Income Communities**
- The project directly serves over 30% of California’s Disadvantaged Communities and 15% of low-income Communities.

**Improve Safety**
- Approximately 4.8 billion auto VMT, 61 fatalities, and 817 injuries are estimated to be avoided over 30 years once the service is operational.

What is the timeline for Valley Rail?

Valley Rail is ready to advance. If the SJJPA/SJRRC joint TIRCP application is successful in receiving SB 1 funding, construction is anticipated to start in 2019. The environmental process is underway and draft documents for public review will be available for the ACE Extension to Sacramento in Summer 2018 and for the ACE Extension to Ceres in Fall 2018.

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February 2019