Alignment Alternatives
Public Meeting

October 2009
Purpose of Meeting

- Inform and update you on status of the San Jose to Merced section Project EIR/EIS
- Highlight what we heard during scoping
- Get your input on potential additional alternatives under consideration
Agenda

6:00 to 6:30 p.m. Open House
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Presentation and Q&A
7:30 to 8:00 p.m. Continuation of Open House

Meeting Guidelines:

- Hold questions until Q&A
- Speak one at a time
- Raise hand and moderator will call upon you
- Use comment cards for longer comments
- Talk to staff directly during open house for issues specific to your location/situation
Lead Agencies

**STATE**

California High-Speed Rail Authority

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

  Lead Agency

**FEDERAL**

Federal Railroad Administration

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

  Lead Agency
- 800-mile system with stations built to allow for express service
- Service linking Southern California, Central Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area
- Grade-separated from vehicles, pedestrians and other rail traffic
- Steel wheel-on-steel rail with 100% clean electric power
San Francisco to Los Angeles: 2 hrs. 40 min.

San Jose to Merced: 45 minutes
Environmental Review Schedule

2009
- Purpose and Need for HST Project
- Alternatives Analysis & Technical Reports

2010
- HST Draft EIR/EIS

2011
- Circulate Draft EIR/EIS

2012
- Formally Adopt Final EIR/EIS

SCOPING
PUBLIC & AGENCY OUTREACH
PUBLIC & AGENCY OUTREACH
PUBLIC COMMENT

San Jose to Merced Project EIR/EIS
California High-Speed Train Project
Alternatives Analysis Process

- **Initial Project Alternatives** (from Program EIR/EIS)
  - **Public Scoping**

- **Initial Review**
  - **Public Input**

- **Comparative Evaluation of Remaining Alternatives**
  - **Public Input**

- **Draft Alternatives Analysis Report**
  - **Public Input**

- **Refine Preliminary Alternatives**
  - **Public Input**

- **Final Alternatives Analysis Report to CHSRA Board**

**We are here**

- **Ongoing Community & Agency Meetings, Interviews, Communications**
## Alternative Analysis
### Design Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maximize ridership/revenue potential</td>
<td>Travel time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximize connectivity and accessibility</td>
<td>Route length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimize operating and capital costs</td>
<td>Intermodal connections</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Operations and maintenance issues and costs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
AA Evaluation Measures

- Land use
- Construction feasibility
- Minimize disruption to neighborhoods & communities
- Minimize impacts to environmental resources
- Minimize impacts to natural resources
Public Outreach Activities

• Public meetings at milestones
• Briefings and presentations
• Communications tools and materials:
  – Fact sheet, e-blasts, newsletters
  – Media outreach
  – Web site updates
Public Scoping

- March 2009 Meetings in San Jose, Gilroy, and Merced
- Over 300 participants
- 141 commentors: 49 letters, 43 emails, 49 comment cards
- 27 verbal comments recorded at meetings
- 500 distinct comments on different topics
Key Themes from Scoping

- Protection of environment
  - Noise and vibration
  - Historic resources
  - Wetlands and biological
  - Traffic
  - Agriculture
- Construction methods
- Alignment alternatives
- Public and agency involvement
Alignment Alternatives

San Jose Near Station
Monterey Highway
Morgan Hill

Pacheco Pass
San Joaquin Valley Crossing
Wye to Merced
At-Grade Examples

At-Grade

At-Grade On Embankment

At-Grade In-Cut
Aerial Examples

San Jose to Merced Project EIR/EIS  California High-Speed Train Project
Tunnel & Trench Examples

San Jose to Merced Project EIR/EIS

California High-Speed Train Project
San Jose Near Station Alignments
Pacheco Pass Alignments

Note: Pacheco Pass alignment alternatives under review using Quantm.
Discussion Guidelines

• Speak one at a time
• Raise hand and moderator will call upon you
• Give everyone a chance to speak
• Use comment cards for longer comments
• Talk to staff directly for questions specific to your location/situation
For More Information

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