

### Federal Officials

“Congratulations to California Governor Jerry Brown, the California High-Speed Rail Authority and its board members. The business plan they released today maps out a sound, step-by-step strategy for building a world-class high-speed rail network.” -**U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood**, Fast Lane blog, November 1, 2011, <http://fastlane.dot.gov/>

### State Leaders

“California’s high-speed rail project will create hundreds of thousands of jobs, linking California’s population centers and avoiding the huge problems of massive airport and highway expansion. The High-Speed Rail Authority’s business plan is solid and lays the foundation for a 21st century transportation system.” - **Governor Jerry Brown**, Press Release, November 1, 2011, <http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=17298>

“The bullet train is a big dream, and from its birth big dreams have defined California. But dreams like this are built from reality. For too long, high-speed rail authority officials trumpeted the dream, but showed little taste for confronting economic and political realities. That attitude has changed. Authority officials are demonstrating a new commitment to having a more honest discussion with the public and policymakers about the costs, benefits and feasibility of the project. That new approach deserves praise.” -**State Treasurer Bill Lockyer**, Press Release, November 1, 2011, <http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/news/releases/2011/20111101.pdf>

“The revised business plan may bring some sticker shock, but it is a tough and honest assessment of the challenges ahead if we are to build a functioning high speed rail system in California. While we have to assess the plan carefully, I remain supportive of a project which could be the single biggest job creator California has seen in decades with some 100,000 jobs in the immediate future.” -**Senate President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg**, Press Release, November 1, 2011, <http://sd06.senate.ca.gov/news/2011-11-01-steinberg-statement-high-speed-rail-business-plan>

“Today’s release of the High Speed Rail Business Plan underscores the fact that building a project of this scale will require a major investment to make high speed rail a reality and a success in this state. The plan will be thoroughly reviewed by the Legislature and I am committed to working with Governor Brown and President Obama’s administration to move High Speed Rail forward and create hundreds of thousands of jobs for Californians while dramatically reducing congestion along our roads, highways, and airports.” -**Speaker of the Assembly John Perez**, Press Release, November 2, 2011, <http://asmdc.org/speaker/news-room/press-releases/item/2710-statement-from-speaker-john-a-perez-on-california-high-speed-rail-business-plan>

“Improved transportation infrastructure is critical to our state’s future. Every demographic model shows the state’s population continuing to grow, with no parallel investment to accommodate that growth in our transportation systems. High-Speed Rail is poised to fill a significant part of this need, but we must proceed with a good business plan built of accurate data and assumptions. This draft business plan appears to be a positive step in that direction to help frame the larger discussion about High-Speed Rail viability.” -**Senator Bob Huff**, Press Release, November 1, 2011, <http://cssrc.us/web/29/news.aspx?id=11471>

### Business and Labor Leaders

“High-speed rail is projected to create 450,000 jobs for Californians across the economy, supporting small businesses and alleviating unemployment in some of the areas hardest hit by the economic downturn. [...] We applaud the High-Speed Rail Authority’s release of a business

plan that brings us closer to making our vision of clean, efficient transportation and good jobs a reality in California.” -**California Labor Federation Executive-Secretary-Treasurer Art Pulaski**, Press Release, November 1, 2011, [http://www.calaborfed.org/index.php/site/page/business\\_plan\\_important\\_step\\_forward\\_for\\_high-speed\\_rail/](http://www.calaborfed.org/index.php/site/page/business_plan_important_step_forward_for_high-speed_rail/))

“California urgently needs high speed rail now, and the draft 2012 Business Plan released by the California High-Speed Rail Authority spells out how we can finally make this long dream a reality.”-**State Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO**, *Capitol Morning Report*, November 2, 2011

The state's high speed rail project offers not only a common sense solution to help meet our transportation infrastructure needs, but a powerful force for creating jobs and economic growth that California cannot afford to pass up. Hispanic small businesses as well as all small businesses have much to gain from this opportunity. -**Julian Canete, CEO & President, CA Hispanic Chambers of Commerce**, *Capitol Morning Report*, November 2, 2011

I want to commend the Governor for his role in putting new people on the High Speed Rail Authority who looked at this project with a critical eye and put together an honest assessment of California's high speed rail system. Our forefathers had the vision and wisdom to invest in our infrastructures at critical points in our state and nation's history. The high speed rail system is no different. -**Jim Earp, Exec. Dir., CA Alliance for Jobs**, *Capitol Morning Report*, November 2, 2011

#### Local Leaders

“When you consider California's future mobility needs, it becomes clear that we simply cannot move the people and goods that our population will soon demand without forward-thinking transportation options like high speed rail. Going forward, we should closely examine linking commuter and inter-city rail as we develop a robust high speed rail network. And as we press ahead, ensuring that the project makes financial and technical sense is crucial.”-**Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa**, *Capitol Morning Report*, November 2, 2011

“The revised business plan provides a path forward to bringing a statewide high speed rail system, making California a national leader on this critical transportation infrastructure investment. High speed rail will generate up to \$8.9 billion in construction infrastructure spending in the Bay Area and up to 128,000 local jobs. California high speed rail will also get commuters and travelers out of the skies and onto the rails, relieving airport congestion and benefiting the economy and the environment.”-**San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee**, *Capitol Morning Report*, November 2, 2011

“High speed rail is vital for Silicon Valley and the entire state. Business travelers, commuters and tourists will all benefit from high-speed connections between our state's economic centers and tourist destinations. High speed rail will create jobs for Californians - more than 105,000 construction-related jobs for the San Jose to San Francisco route alone, and hundreds of thousands more jobs from the San Jose to Merced section.”-**San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed**, *Capitol Morning Report*, November 2, 2011

“Building high speed rail is essential to create jobs in the Central Valley and to connect the Valley economically and socially to the state's other population centers. I-5 took 50 years to complete in CA. It began in the Central Valley. It was called the "road to nowhere." It was called "too expensive." Today, it is the backbone of surface transportation in California. I look forward to reviewing the business plan and determining the path forward for adding high speed rail to our

mix of transportation options in California.”-**Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearengin**, *Capitol Morning Report*, November 2, 2011

“The release of the California High Speed Rail Authority's business plan Tuesday marks a major milestone for the future of our state. [...] This project represents one of the most exciting movements in the transportation and economic landscapes in the state's history. [...] The release of the updated business plan brings us one step closer to overcoming the challenges, and it deserves to be fairly and thoroughly vetted and responded to.” -**President and Chief Executive Officer of the Bay Area Council Jim Wunderman**, *San Francisco Chronicle*, October 31, 2011, [http://articles.sfgate.com/2011-10-31/opinion/30344445\\_1\\_high-speed-rail-high-speed-train-highways-and-airports](http://articles.sfgate.com/2011-10-31/opinion/30344445_1_high-speed-rail-high-speed-train-highways-and-airports)

“High speed rail is a catalyst for innovation, creativity, and expansion. It will boost our economy when we need it most and create sustained growth for years. In business, we look at what is possible to achieve, what it costs to do it, and how processes can be improved to make it more profitable. For us, a business plan is a guide - not a prescription. It's a catapult used for creativity and innovation - not a block wall because there are complicated issues that need to be addressed.”-**Maureen Hayes, Chair, High Speed Rail Task Force, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce**, *Capitol Morning Report*, November 2, 2011

“California needs jobs, especially in the Central Valley. Unemployment rates in the Central Valley are as high as 15 percent with some of the smaller rural cities hovering around 40 percent. The present lack of employment in the Central Valley is of paramount importance. This project presents one of the few signs of hope on the horizon and is something we should not dismiss.”-**Al Smith, CEO & President, Fresno Chamber of Commerce**, *Capitol Morning Report*, November 2, 2011