

High Speed Rail in America

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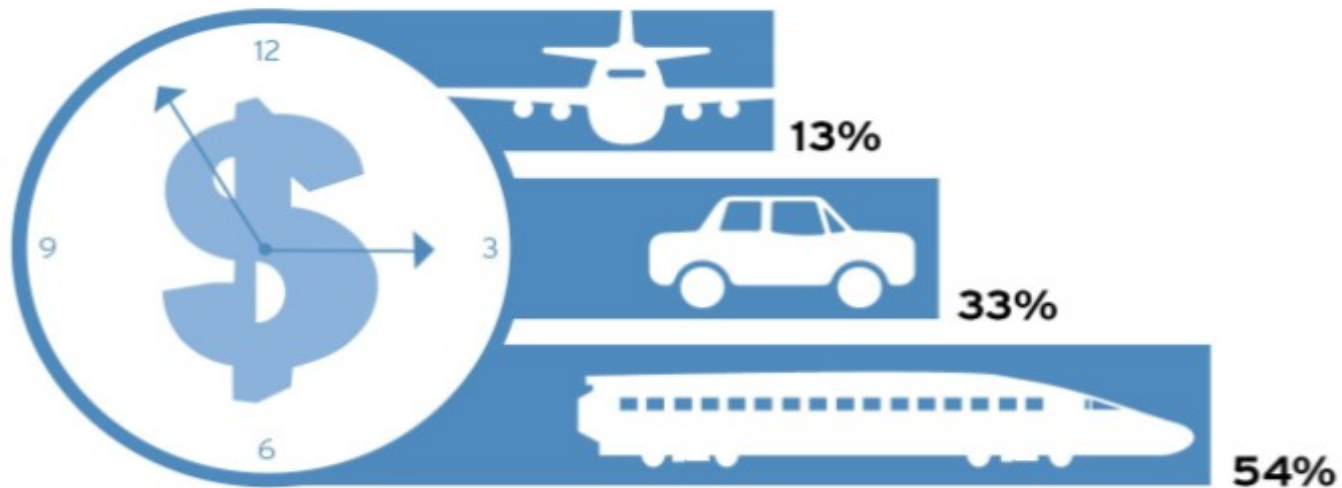


The US Current Situation of High Speed Rail

- The US only has one high speed rail
 - Acela
 - Which runs from Boston to Washington D.C.
- A renewed interest in High Speed Rail
 - Due to increased congestion
 - Desire for cheaper travel
 - Mainly between cities
 - Interest in greener transportation
 - Most high speed trains are electric
 - Overseas experience



Q. If the fare and travel time were about the same, which of the following would you be more likely to use to travel to a city in your region?



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http://www.hntb.com/sites/default/files/HSRSurveyInfoGraphics_300News.jpg

Estimated Development of HSR



High Speed Rails Impact

- Would reduce annual carbon emissions by 2.8 million tons
 - High speed trains use 1/3 the energy of planes and 1/5 that of cars
- Reduce Airport congestion
 - By eliminating 900,000 city to city flights
- Give access to cheaper long distance travel



Impact Continued

- Improve economic situation
 - First by jobs created
 - Secondly by travel brought in by train
 - Providence economy grew when linked to Boston and New York by the Acela
 - In Europe several areas saw development increase
 - Development was in office and retail
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travel.org/en/Frankfurt

Possible effects on Freight Rail

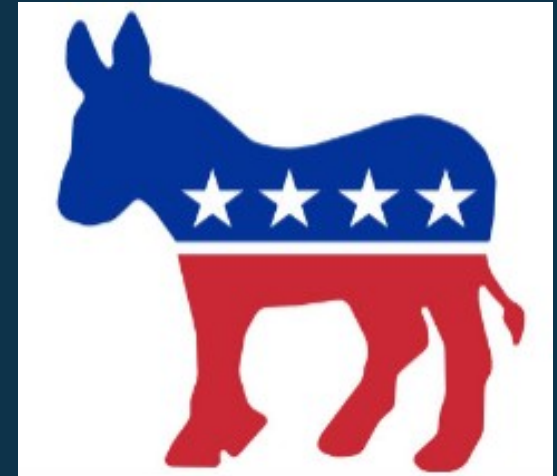
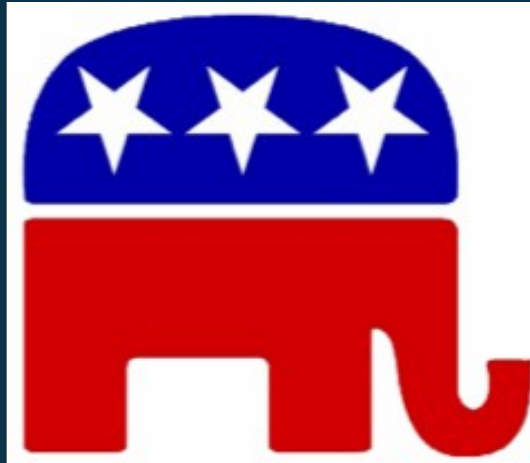
- High speed rail usually hauls passengers, though new opportunities for freight exist
- Many of the new proposed corridors will connect with current freight line
 - Resulting in improvement to those lines
 - Reducing operating costs due to sharing rail
- Increase in freight hauled
 - In Europe, some trains carry mail and parcels
 - Allow for lower transportation costs (UPS, FedEx, USPS)

http://www.gordon-elias.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/csxt_southbound_freight_train.jpg



Election's Effect on the Future of High Speed Rail

- Democratic chairman of the US House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee loses re-election in Minnesota
- Three Republican governors opposed to high speed rail are elected
- Mixed message from voters regarding government spending on rail projects



Oberstar out, Replaced by Mica

- Not opposed to high speed rails
- Wants to reevaluate where funding is being provided
- Prefers densely populated areas and true, high speed rails
- Wants to scale back \$800 million dollar project in own home state to focus on only the congested, tourism-focused region

Votes for Funding

- Colorado votes down measure to limit state spending on road maintenance
- Florida votes down 1% increase to sales tax for various highway projects
- Rhode Island approves \$80 million in bonds and notes for infrastructure

Major Projects Cancelled

- Scott Walker, incoming governor of Wisconsin, referred to the state's rail project as "boondoggle"
- Barriers to cancellation include: agreement with federal authorities, creation of forty jobs at Patentes Talgo
- John Kasich, Ohio's newest governor, called for the cancellation of two studies
- Called train "one of the dumbest ideas" and turned down \$400 million in federal funding



Proposed High Speed Rail systems in the United States

Local Impact: New Haven- Springfield

Florida High Speed Rail System
California High Speed Rail System
Pacific Northwest Corridor
Wisconsin High Speed Rail

New Haven Railroad



From Old to New

- The NHRR shuttled between Boston and New York
- Talks of resurrecting line as high speed rail
- \$120 million in federal funding approved for New Haven-Hartford-Springfield connection
- Reduce carbon emissions by 10,000 tons per year

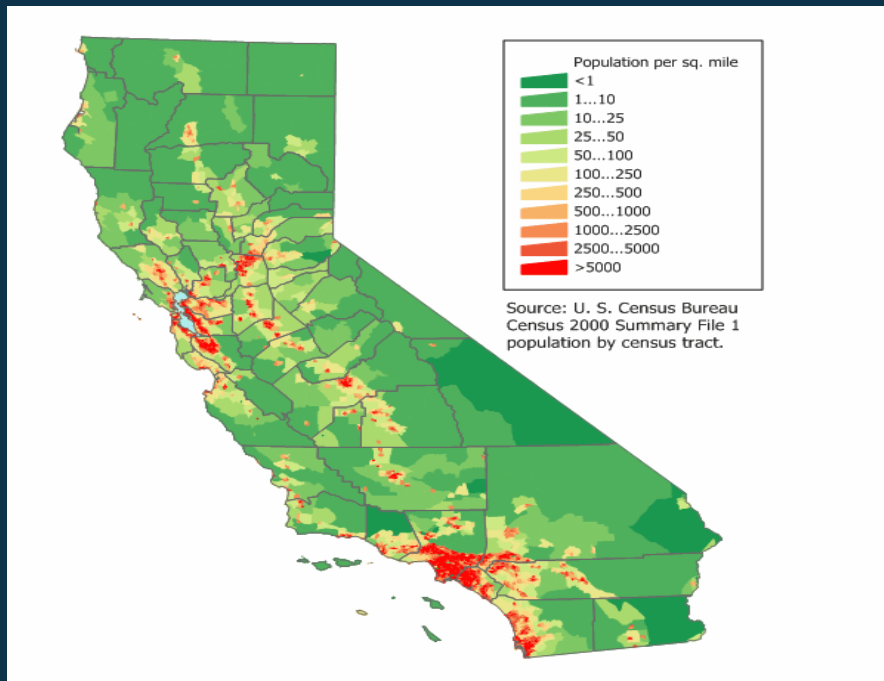


California High Speed Rail



Over a billion annual trips are projected to be made within the state of California in the next twenty years.

Scope of the California Project

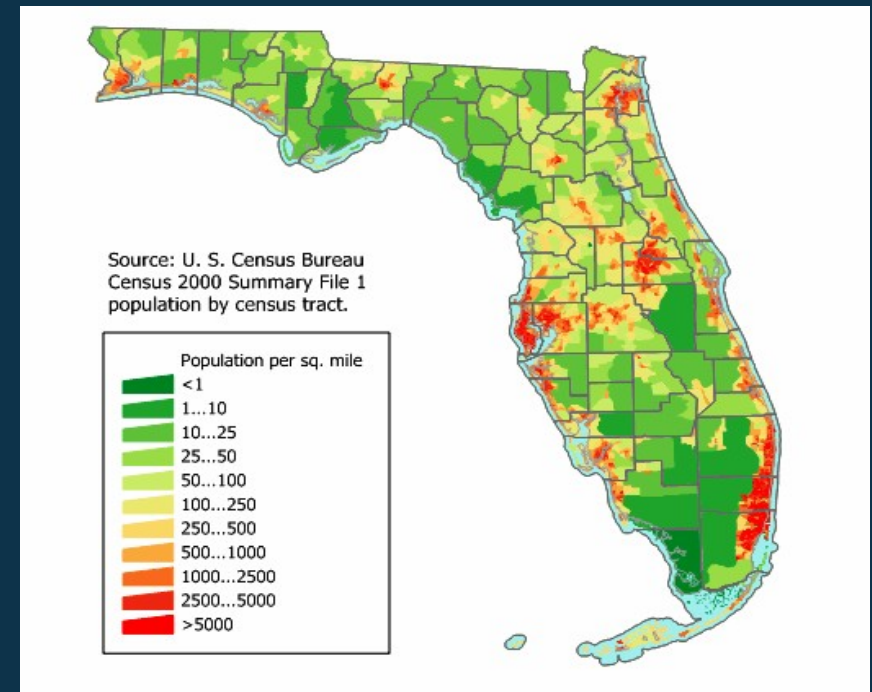


- 800 miles of track
- Up to 24 stations
- From San Francisco to Los Angeles at speeds up to 220 mph

Florida High Speed Rail



- Connecting Tampa, Lakeland, Walt Disney Resorts, International Drive and Orlando International Airport.
- Florida is on track to open one of America's first HSR express service between Tampa and Orlando in 2015.
- Trains are projected to reach speeds of at least 168 mph.



Benefits

Economical Benefits:

- Job creation and improved movement of people, goods and services.

Community Benefits:

- Cheaper, faster, safer and more convenient travel

Environmental:

- Improved air quality
- Foreign Oil: 12.7 million barrels less per year
- Greenhouse gas emissions: 12 billion pounds less per year



Is HSR worth the cost?



- Examples of Economic Impact:
 - Japan
 - European Union
- Environmental Impact:
 - CO2 emissions
 - Pollution caused from construction