

2018

# CALIFORNIA STATE RAIL PLAN



factsheet



## CONNECTING CALIFORNIA...BETTER

Caltrans is beginning work on its new 2018 Rail Plan which will provide an **exciting new framework for California's rail network** and set the stage for **new and better rail and community connections in the State** for the next 20 years and beyond.

### THE RAIL PLAN'S MISSION

*The mission of the 2018 Rail Plan is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated, and efficient California rail network that successfully moves people and goods while enhancing the State's economy and livability.*

## What is the 2018 CALIFORNIA STATE RAIL PLAN?

The 2018 Rail Plan will present a **vision and strategies** for California's future passenger and freight rail network, which **will guide state investments** supporting implementation of an integrated rail network. It also fulfills state and federal rail plan requirements.

The Rail Plan is not being developed in a vacuum - it is an important element in the comprehensive examination of statewide transportation investment strategies tied to the **2040 California Transportation Plan**:

This overall plan for the State seeks to build on regional initiatives for curbing greenhouse gas emissions and climate change by coordinating statewide planning for all transportation modes, including air, roads and highways, local and regional public transit, and passenger and freight rail.

## YES, RAIL CAN... provide solutions to today's transportation challenges:

- Rail provides a **safe, quality and efficient transportation choice** for Californians;
- Rail provides a **cost-effective, and often best-value, investment** in transportation infrastructure that minimizes impacts on our communities and supports economic growth;
- Rail **can help reduce current highway and air transportation congestion** in our highly urbanized state, where population is expected to grow to nearly 50-million by 2050.
- Rail, including electrified rail, is an effective way to help achieve the state's greenhouse gas emission targets and other **air quality benefits**.



See the website [www.californiastaterailplan.com](http://www.californiastaterailplan.com) for more information.



## WHAT IS NEW about the 2018 Rail Plan?

The 2018 Rail Plan builds on previous Caltrans rail plans, and yet is **more ambitious** as it will provide a **vision for freight and passenger rail** that will include an integrated high-speed, intercity, and commuter passenger rail system with better **timed connections and more transportation options**.

The 2018 Rail Plan will also address how rail can help achieve statewide **greenhouse gas emissions** mandates.



## How YOU can GET INVOLVED:

This Rail Plan planning process is being designed to allow for early and meaningful public participation throughout, with several options for input and feedback.

- **Sign up** to receive e-mail updates and notifications on the Rail Plan planning process
- **Provide comments** through the website's online comment form
- **Send an email** to [Railplan@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Railplan@dot.ca.gov)
- **Attend public meetings (in person or online)**, and provide feedback on the Draft Plan during the Public Comment Period in Spring of 2017
- **Bookmark the website** and check it often for updates: [www.californiastaterailplan.com](http://www.californiastaterailplan.com)

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

- July 2015** ○ Began preparation of the 2018 Rail Plan
- Early 2016** ○ Launch of new Rail Plan website and public online survey to provide early input on rail issues and opportunities
- Spring 2017** ○ Draft 2018 Rail Plan will be available to the public for review and provide feedback during a public comment period
- Mid-2018** ○ The final Rail Plan will be released, including responses to public comments

## STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Caltrans convened a Stakeholder Advisory Committee in November 2015 as a technical and policy working group to provide input and expertise in the development of the 2018 Rail Plan. The committee meets quarterly through August 2017, and includes passenger rail operators, planning agencies, freight rail interests, Tribal Nations, private railroads, transit operators, and neighboring states. Advocacy groups representing environmental, disadvantaged communities, livable communities/active transportation and agricultural interests are also included.

A full roster of participating agencies is available on [www.californiastaterailplan.com/about](http://www.californiastaterailplan.com/about)

In addition, Caltrans has a focused Native American outreach program for the 2018 Rail Plan which includes appointing three Native American tribal representatives to the Stakeholder Committee, tribal listening sessions early in the Rail Plan development process, formal consultation options for the draft 2018 Rail Plan, and providing regular updates to the Caltrans Native American Advisory Council.

## contact us

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