community coalition on high speed rail

CC-HSR — dedicated to preventing the California High Speed Rail project from devastating our communities and State finances.

community report

JANUARY 6, 2016

2016 could be a Happy New Year for those concerned about the negative impacts of HSR

Evidence that project might be brought to a halt this year!

There may be some good news coming for those concerned about the state's mismanaged and ill-planned High-Speed Rail project. It looks like this may be the year when the project is (finally) brought to a halt! Although the project is widely acknowledged as a "boondoggle," it has been a lot like those zombie characters out of The Walking Dead. It just keeps moving forward. This year, that may change!

Some evidence:

- Power Broker ***Willie Brown*** (who is always pretty well informed) ***thinks the state's High-Speed Rail project should be listed as a political lame duck!*** In his column in the San Francisco Chronicle on Sunday, January 3rd, Brown said this: *"There are a lot of indications that [Governor] Brown will give ground - or give up on - his two big legacy projects, high-speed rail and the twin tunnels that would ship delta water south."*

- ***State Politicians Have Started To Bail*** - Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, running hard for Governor, and a good bet to replace Governor Brown, has been a high-profile critic of the state's current project. Furthermore, Democratic Party members of the Legislature are also starting to break ranks. ***Assembly Member Patty Lopez***, for instance, has made a big deal out of her recently-announced opposition. In a recent LA Times article she said, *"the matter should go back to the voters, who approved $9 billion in funding for the project in 2008. Lopez said the state has higher priorities, including water, jobs, homelessness, that outweigh the high-speed rail system."*

- ***Initiative Measures Are Taking Aim At HSR*** - Three different initiative measures, heading for the statewide ballot in November, would either terminate or very significantly truncate the state's current High-Speed Rail effort. You can read up on the initiatives by clicking this link:
  http://cc-hsr.org/news-pdf/com-report-112315.pdf

- ***U.S. Government Reports Point Out The Problems*** – The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has done a project review, presented to Congress, showing that ***the Authority is far behind its schedule in acquiring properties and has extremely limited fund***s. The U.S. Governmental Accountability Office (GAO) has also issued a report. The GAO Report says that the Authority has not been matching the spending of the federal grants as originally outlined in their original funding agreement. Instead the Federal Railroad Administration has made several amendments moving the dates for the Authority spending later and later. If the Authority ultimately does not have the cash to match the federal spending, the FRA does have ways to recapture its money if the State fails to fulfill its legal obligations.

- ***In February, The Tos Case Goes To Trial*** - Petitioners from the California Central Valley have been trying to get to trial for almost six years, in order to have a court decide whether or not the state's project is actually consistent with what the voters approved in 2008. There are some very strong arguments that the project is fatally inconsistent with the High-Speed Rail Bond Act, and the Tos case goes to trial on February 11th! Posturing and pretending can only stretch so far. T***his may be the year when the state can't stretch the truth any further***, and when the High-Speed Rail Authority is finally forced to confess that the currently proposed project is going nowhere, FAST!

We Appreciate Your Support

We hope you will make a New Year's Resolution to make a generous contribution to CC-HSR! We have been working since 2008 to make sure that the High-Speed Rail Authority doesn't victimize residents and businesses on the Peninsula, and that the High-Speed Rail Authority won't be able to waste almost $10 billion of the taxpayers' money with a project that just won't work.

Help us continue our coverage.

Since 2008, CC-HSR has been working through litigation, lobbying, and public outreach to make sure that the state's proposed High-Speed Rail project does not bring devastating impacts to the San Francisco Peninsula, or to other parts of California. Return go to our web site **www.cc-hsr.org** to make a donation to support our work. CC-HSR is totally supported by the community, and this latest decision by the STB, and the anticipated approval in January of the proposed Caltrain "Pre-HSR" project, means that we will probably have to be back in court very soon. We truly need your help! (AS NOTED ABOVE.)

AND, please Know This: WE APPRECIATE Your Support!

CC-HSR is totally supported by the community, and we truly appreciate your help! Thank you again for your support and assistance for our work!

Visit Our Website To Make A Contribution