

## Intercity Rail Sub-Working Group Kickoff Meeting Recap and Next Steps, 2/8/22

### Discussion topics:

- Leverage IIJA Fed funding and state funding
  - Build project list identifying who is applying for which funding (statewide comprehensive project list)
    - Direct partners in intercity rail group to commenting on the SRP and ensuring that their projects are represented. SRP is the programming document, projects should align with this.
- Discussion of “mega projects”
  - Trans hubs and capacity, trans bay, SANDAG and San Diego County interested in this effort
  - Highway or bridge projects, intermodal, highway to rail, public transportation, and others – **see description from Feds**
  - What projects are eligible? Is this only construction? Or does it include early planning and other phases?
  - More definition needed here, worth mentioning in action plan to elevate awareness
    - Potential topic for project list discussion above
- Lack of operating and maintenance funds
  - Present idea of California Fix-it-First or CA Shop for Rail and that DRMT is looking into this
    - Leverage state concepts into pot of federal funding – are there any rail specific projects looking at climate resiliency and adaptation? Any multi-modal programs looking at this?
    - Section 5 of IIJA document focused on climate resiliency
      - Projects falling under Section 1.2 public transportation may qualify for this funding
    - Opportunity to access federal funding for repairs needed due to climate change and/or to enhance climate resiliency
- Modal shift from cars to transit and rail
  - To do this we need high-quality intercity rail services (frequency, higher speed, multi-directional)
  - Good idea, we don't have a specific funding request. Regions can apply for projects that contribute to this objective
  - SRP addresses this desired future state through various goals
- Equity
  - At intercity level, we are working with JPAs to address equity and climate that increase number of people riding trains.
  - Looking at ways to make trains more effective and more affordable for all
  - Analyze statewide policy and legislation that supports equity
  - Rail equity components: impact to non-users (air quality, separating communities) and accessibility to users
    - Brainstorming session with rail operators to demonstrate how they are not harming quality, and what can they do to make the service more affordable and accessible.
    - Should not be harming communities
      - Are there stations in disadvantaged communities? What are trade-offs in efficiency?

- Freight Action Plan
  - Investments should be aligned with this
  - This could be a topic of consideration for Freight and Goods Movement sub-working group
- Expansion of Coachella Valley Project
  - Impact to surrounding communities
    - Corridor between Fullerton and Riverside
    - Riverside to Coachella Valley
- Alignment with zero-emissions activities
  - This work is happening, won't need its own session. Could be a reminder to the group that ZE projects are a priority
    - Include as part of the project list meeting
- Potential Risks and/or Challenges
  - Specific meeting or include as agenda item at each meeting?
- Points of coordination with this working group:
  - Freight and Goods Movement
  - Transit and Commuter Rail
  - Transition to Zero-Emissions
  - Other?
- **Next Steps:**
  - Schedule meetings
    - Comprehensive project list meeting - Discuss ZE and Equity updates as part of the meeting
    - Others?
  - Complete project charter prior to first meeting
  - Complete action plan template prior to first meeting