

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