Rail Passengers Webinar Series

Heavy Rail Gets Green:
How Modern Passenger Train Systems Can Partner With the U.S. Environmental Movement

May 25th, 2022
Today’s Webinar

• Welcome
  • Joe Aiello, National Field Coordinator, Rail Passengers

• Introduction
  • Sean Jeans-Gail, Vice President of Government Affairs, Rail Passengers

• Featured Presentations
  • Margaret Cederoth, Director of Planning and Sustainability, California High-Speed Rail Authority
  • Dr. Christina Aiello, Wildlife Ecologist and Postdoctoral Fellow, Oregon State University

• Q&A

• A Look Ahead
Introduction

Sean Jeans-Gail, Vice President of Government Affairs
Rail Passengers Association
Building Sustainable Rail
Rail Passengers Association

Webinar
May 25, 2022
CONNECTING CALIFORNIA

Program Highlights

Phase 1

» 520 Miles
» San Francisco to Los Angeles/Anaheim

Phase 2

» After Phase 1 - Extends 300 Miles
» Connections to Sacramento and San Diego

Travels at approximately 200 mph
Up to 24 Stations

Result: 2 million metric tons of CO2e avoided annually
BUILDING BLOCK APPROACH
Projects Underway

Today:

• 119 Miles Under Construction
• Environmentally Clearing Full 500 Miles Between SF and LA—Approximately 300 Miles Cleared
• Bookend Projects:
  » Caltrain Electrification
  » LAUS Improvements
  » Grade Separations

• Station Design Delivery
• MOU with Brightline West
PROGRAM UPDATE

Benefits Highlights

• 7,500+ Construction Jobs Created Since Construction Began
  » 1,000+ Construction Workers Dispatched to Sites Daily
  » 34 Active Construction Sites

• 698 Small Businesses Employed
  » 224 are Disadvantaged Business Enterprises
  » 79 Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises

• CA High-Speed Rail will be 100% Electric Run on Renewable Energy
  » Currently Using Tier IV Equipment
  » Will Reduce VMT by taking 400k cars off the road annually
Embedding Sustainability in Our Infrastructure
CALIFORNIA SETS SUSTAINABILITY STANDARD
How high-speed rail uses California policy to set a new direction for delivery

- 301,000 MT Carbon Sequestered and Avoided
- 7,500 Jobs Created
- $2,400,000,000 Disadvantaged Communities Benefited
- 140,000 lbs. Criteria Air Pollution Avoided
- 698 Small Businesses Engaged
- $1B = 24K Jobs Economic Investment Multiplier
ENVISION PLATINUM AWARD

Envision is a 3rd Party Verified certification program for sustainable infrastructure.

Certification is based on an iterative points-based framework.

Highlights:
  » 100% Recycling of concrete and steel
  » Demonstrably cleaner construction sites
  » Climate adaptation planning & community resilience
  » Embodied carbon reduction & supply chain
California’s Sustainable Future

- Net-zero, clean energy operations
- Focused growth at station sites
- 3,500 tons of pollution avoided annually
- 2 million MTCO2e avoided annually

- Sustainability Report:
Building Sustainable Rail

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Dr. Christina Aiello
Wildlife Ecologist and Postdoctoral Fellow
Oregon State University
TRANSPORTATION & WILDLIFE

Efficient movement for all species
Biologist 2010 - 2018

PhD Ecology 2018
Conservation Biology

Science Fellow 2019
Oregon State University
RESEARCH
CONSERVATION CHALLENGES

INTERACTING THREATS

- Invasive species
- Introduced disease
- Habitat loss & fragmentation
- Extreme weather
- Predators
LIMITED RECOVERY

2.5x more threats affect species at time of listing

2017 v. 1975

Leu et al. 2019 Conservation Science & Practice

84% of species listed under ESA are conservation reliant

Scott et al. 2010 Conservation Letters
Resilient
Adaptable
Self-sustaining

WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY
RESTORE & MAINTAIN MOVEMENT

by building better
WILDLIFE CROSSINGS

Popular
Proven effective
Long-term benefits
BRIGHTLINE WEST

An opportunity to move people & wildlife
LESSONS LEARNED

NEPA
Communication
Special Interest Groups
PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

CHSRA Advances Wildlife Protection Project

Written by Marybeth Lucek, Executive Editor

Environmental approval of the CHSRA’s San Jose to Merced project section through the Pacheco Pass will be considered at the 26 April 27-28 Board meeting.

A $3.125 million California Wildlife Conservation Board grant will fund the planning, design, environmental review and permitting of a proposed wildlife overcrossing spanning State Route 152, near the San Jose to Merced high-speed rail project section, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) reported on April 19.

A Toolkit for Developing Effective Projects Under the Federal Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program

By: Kylie Paul, Anna Weam, Rob Ament, Elizabeth Fairbank & Zack Wurtsbach

December 2021

Opportunities to Improve Sensitive Habitat and Movement Route Connectivity for Colorado’s Big Game Species

September 27, 2021
Q&A
NEXT EVENT:

FRA Metrics & Standards: Customer On-Time Performance

Late June: TBD

MORE INFO:
railpassengers.org/events