

MEMORANDUM

TO: VTA Board of Directors

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns
General Manager

FROM: Donald A. Smith, Jr.
Chief Operating Officer

DATE: January 27, 2010

SUBJECT: VTA, Inter-agency Partners, and Contracted Services Ridership for December 2009

December 2009 total monthly system ridership for bus and light rail was 3,262,322, a decrease of 7.1% over December 2008. The average weekday system ridership for December 2009 was 5% less than December 2008 and was the ninth consecutive month of average weekday ridership decrease.

Bus average weekday ridership for December 2009 was 95,525, a 5.6% decrease compared to December 2008. Light rail recorded an average weekday ridership of 29,206 for December 2009, a decrease of 2.7% compared to December 2008.

With the exception of Dumbarton Express, all of VTA's inter-agency partners and contracted services experienced average weekday ridership decreases in December 2009.

<u>VTA Ridership</u>	December 2009	December 2008	Percent Change
VTA System Boardings	3,262,322	3,510,788	-7.1%
System Average Weekday	124,731	131,239	-5.0%
Bus Boardings	2,511,047	2,702,800	-7.1%
Bus Average Weekday	95,525	101,230	-5.6%
Light Rail Boardings	751,275	807,988	-7.0%
Light Rail Average Weekday	29,206	30,009	-2.7%

<u>Inter-agency Partners Ridership</u>	December 2009	December 2008	Percent Change
Dumbarton Express Boardings	18,551	17,379	6.7%
Dumbarton Average Weekday	843	790	6.7%
Highway 17 Express Boardings	19,484	21,008	-7.3%
Highway 17 Average Weekday	747	805	-7.2%
Monterey-San Jose Express Boardings	2,195	2,574	-14.7%
Monterey-San Jose Average Weekday	76	84	-9.5%
Caltrain Boardings	888,790	967,037	-8.1%
Caltrain Average Weekday	32,597	35,672	-8.6%
Altamont Commuter Express Boardings	45,154	57,411	-21.3%
ACE Average Weekday	2,052	2,734	-24.9%
Capitol Corridor Boardings	122,649	130,261	-5.8%

<u>Contracted Services Ridership</u>	December 2009	December 2008	Percent Change
Paratransit Boardings	71,666	85,739	-16.4%
Paratransit Average Weekday	2,892	3,421	-15.5%
ACE Shuttles Boardings	13,913	16,693	-16.7%
ACE Shuttles Average Weekday	632	795	-20.5%
IBM/Hitachi Light Rail Shuttle Boardings	1,416	1,640	-13.7%
IBM/Hitachi Shuttle Average Weekday	64	78	-17.9%

To: VTA Board of Directors

From: Michael T. Burns
General Manager

Date: January 28, 2010

Subject: \$8 Billion ARRA Award for High Speed Rail Projects

Earlier today, the President announced the award of \$8 billion in federal stimulus funding to support High Speed Rail projects across the country. This award is the first in a series of jobs initiatives that the President will unveil in the coming weeks, as outlined in his State of the Union Address last night. Although the announcement has just been made, and many details of the awards have not yet been released, this is what we know so far:

- California's High Speed Rail project, connecting Los Angeles/Anaheim and San Francisco, and will receive \$2.344 billion. This funding was awarded through a competitive grant program administered through by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).
- \$23 million out of the \$2.3 billion, has been allocated for constructing four new station tracks at the San Jose Diridon Station, and a crossover between Davis and Sacramento, which will reduce trip times and improve on-time performance.
- \$2.250 billion of the \$2.344 billion will be awarded by the High Speed Rail Authority Board to purchase right-of-way, construct track, signaling systems, and stations, as well as complete environmental reviews.

This is great news for the California HSR project, and for Caltrain. Due to the extensive planning and work that has been completed so far, Caltrain should be a prime candidate for funding to support many of their proposed improvements, including electrification, Positive Train Control, upgrades to the San Jose Diridon station, and the San Bruno Grade separation.

In the coming months, the HSRSA Board will take steps to program the \$2.250 billion to the various corridors projects throughout the state, based on project readiness and other factors, including community input. The federal grant will be matched dollar for dollar by the State, through the issuance of Prop 1A bonds. Work on the projects must be started by September 2012.

We will continue to update you on this award as more details become available. A copy of the White House press release is below.

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The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release
January 28, 2010

President Obama, Vice President Biden to Announce \$8 Billion for High-Speed Rail Projects Across the Country

Projects Will Help Create Construction Jobs, Revitalize U.S. Manufacturing Sector

Tampa, FL – President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden will today announce that the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) is awarding \$8 billion to states across the country to develop America’s first nationwide program of high-speed intercity passenger rail service. Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), these dollars represent an historic investment in the country’s transportation infrastructure, which will help create jobs and transform travel in America. The announcement is one of a number of job initiatives the President will lay out in the coming weeks that follow up on the continued commitment to job creation he discussed in last night’s State of the Union Address. A full list of the awards can be viewed [HERE](#).

“Through the Recovery Act, we are making the largest investment in infrastructure since the Interstate Highway System was created, putting Americans to work rebuilding our roads, bridges, and waterways for the future,” **said President Obama**. “That investment is how we can break ground across the country, putting people to work building high-speed rail lines, because there’s no reason why Europe or China should have the fastest trains when we can build them right here in America.”

“By investing in high speed rail, we’re doing so many good things for our country at the same time,” **said Vice President Biden**. “We’re creating good construction and manufacturing jobs in the near-term; we’re spurring economic development in the future; we’re making our communities more livable—and we’re doing it all while decreasing America’s environmental impact and increasing America’s ability to compete in the world.”

Today’s awards will serve as a down-payment on developing or laying the groundwork for 13 new, large-scale high-speed rail corridors across the country. The major corridors are part of a total of 31 states receiving investments, including smaller projects and planning work that will help lay the groundwork for future high-speed intercity rail service. The grants are not only expected to have an up-front job and economic impact, but help spur economic growth in communities across the country, provide faster and more energy-efficient means of travel, and establish a new industry in the U.S. that provides stable, well-paid jobs.

This historic \$8 billion investment is expected to create or save tens of thousands of jobs over time in areas like track-laying, manufacturing, planning and engineering, and rail maintenance and operations. Over 30 rail manufacturers, both domestic and foreign, have agreed to establish or expand their base of

operations in the United States if they are hired to build America's next generation high-speed rail lines – a commitment the Administration secured to help ensure new jobs are created here at home.

“The President’s bold vision for high-speed rail is a game changer,” said **Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood**. “It’s not only going to create good jobs and reinvigorate our manufacturing base, it’s also going to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and help create livable communities. I have no doubt that building the next generation of rail service in this country will help change our society for the better.”

The majority of the dollars announced today will go toward developing new, large-scale high-speed rail programs. This includes projects in Florida, which is receiving up to \$1.25 billion to develop a new high-speed rail corridor between Tampa and Orlando with trains running up to 168 miles per hour, and in California, which is receiving up to \$2.25 billion for its planned project to connect Los Angeles to San Francisco and points in between with trains running up to 220 miles per hour.

In April 2009, the Administration released a long-term [plan](#) for high speed rail in America. In addition to the \$8 billion awarded today, the plan also included \$1 billion a year for five years in the federal budget as a down payment to jump-start the program. Applicants submitted over \$55 billion in project proposals for the initial \$8 billion in funds awarded today.

Obama Administration officials are traveling across the country this week to announce funding for the high speed rail projects and discuss how this investment will create local jobs and rebuild the economy. Today, EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson will travel to Durham, North Carolina, Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis will visit Columbus, Ohio and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood will hold an event in Washington, DC, Executive Director of the White House Council on Auto Communities and Workers Ed Montgomery will visit St. Louis, Missouri and Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph C. Szabo will be in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. On Friday, a senior Department of Transportation official will travel to California and FRA Administrator Szabo will hold an event in Chicago, Illinois.

For further details on the major corridor projects, click here:

- [Florida](#)
- [California](#)
- [Chicago-St. Louis-Kansas City](#)
- [Madison - Milwaukee – Chicago](#)
- [Charlotte - Raleigh - Richmond - Washington, D.C.](#)
- [Eugene-Portland-Seattle](#)
- [Detroit-Chicago](#)
- [Ohio](#)

- [Northeast](#)

To learn more about the story of the Recovery Act, visit www.WhiteHouse.gov/Recovery. To follow Recovery Act dollars, visit www.Recovery.gov.