



City of Bakersfield Station Area Planning Frequently Asked Questions ADDENDUM

How is the Locally Generated Alternative different from the Station Area Planning?

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is currently working with the cities of Bakersfield and Shafter, as well as local residents, stakeholders and regulatory agencies to refine an alignment within the Fresno to Bakersfield Project Section of the High-Speed Rail (HSR) System that includes a proposed station at the intersection of F Street and Golden State Avenue in Bakersfield. This locally generated alternative has been developed in cooperation with the cities and will be studied along with the approved Bakersfield Hybrid Alternative in a supplemental environmental document.

As part of the planning process for a future HSR station, the City of Bakersfield and the Authority have entered into a station area planning agreement. This agreement includes project management, community outreach, station area visioning, multimodal access and parking planning, economic real estate analysis and implementation planning.

What is the Bakersfield Station Area Planning Agreement?

The City of Bakersfield successfully applied to the Authority's Station Area Planning program in 2015. This planning program was created to provide resources to HSR station cities that are advancing land use and zoning changes necessary for future development that will occur around high-speed rail stations. The City of Bakersfield seeks to make Downtown high-speed rail-ready. Through Bakersfield's High-Speed Rail Station Area Plan (Making Downtown Bakersfield), the City is working to identify and leverage every opportunity to regenerate and refocus development by bringing a broad mix of jobs, housing, retail and entertainment that is unique to Bakersfield. The HSR station will also provide travelers with convenient connections to buses, highways, taxis, rideshare vehicles, biking and walking to final destinations.

Why is the City of Bakersfield and the Authority Working Together to Plan the Station Area?

The City of Bakersfield and the Authority are working together on station area planning to ensure that the high-speed rail station is more than just a train stop; it is an integral part of the community. The City and Authority are working together to design, develop and plan a new, centrally located station that is part of the ongoing Downtown renaissance. This effort will help to inform the future design of the station, the community's vision for the station area, promote economic development, and enhance connectivity to other modes of transportation.

When Will the Station Design and Delivery Begin?

Several steps are already underway to advance the planning, design and delivery of the HSR stations, with much of this work beginning in the Central Valley. The Authority and its partners have been studying several international HSR systems from around the world, and they know that HSR stations are different than typical intercity passenger rail stations already in California. The Authority is currently working to develop a statewide vision plan for HSR stations that will articulate what a HSR station will mean for California and serve as an example for future HSR stations in the U.S.

What Will the High-Speed Rail Station Look Like?

The Authority's Station Design Team envisions that the Bakersfield HSR station and all other stations in the statewide system will be iconic and welcoming to the visitors and travelers to California's major cities. When visitors arrive or depart from a California HSR station, there will be common design elements such as signage and wayfinding, similar to how you know you're at an Amtrak station.

There will also be opportunities to make the stations unique to the communities they serve, and the City of Bakersfield and the Authority will partner with local organizations and stakeholders to ensure that the HSR station is reflective of the local community and its history, is integrated into the existing landscape and becomes a hub for re-growth and future transit-oriented development opportunities.

What Amenities Will a High-Speed Rail Station Have?

All of the HSR stations throughout the State will have amenities such as information counters about the system and the region, ticketing machines, restrooms, drinking fountains, wireless access and electronics recharging stations, rental car counters and bike hubs. Travelers will also be able to access amenities similar to what is seen at airports, including news-stands, restaurants, bars and coffee shops, gift shops and travel lounges, and general shopping.

At a local level, individual HSR stations can also provide opportunities to display local art and culture. There will also be opportunities to create or expand upon nearby open spaces and urban park areas. There will also be opportunities for shopping, dining, residential and work-related opportunities that can be integrated into and reflect the local and regional context.