

Vision for Integrated Passenger Rail/Transit in Kern County



Construction of the nation's first 200+ mph high-speed rail (HSR) system is underway in the San Joaquin Valley, and Kern County will be the southern terminus for early HSR operations. The Golden Empire Transit District (GET) and Kern Transit public transportation networks will be fully integrated with HSR at the Bakersfield HSR Station. Enhanced public transportation, zero emission vehicles, and transit-oriented development will be instrumental to improved mobility, equity, air quality, and economic vitality for all who live, work, and travel through Kern County.

High-Speed Rail (HSR)

Early HSR operations are expected to begin on the 171-mile Merced to Bakersfield segment between 2030 and 2033, and construction is well underway between Madera and north of Bakersfield. The Bakersfield HSR Station will be a key component of initial HSR operations. As the backbone of the integrated passenger rail/transit vision for the San Joaquin Valley, HSR will be the catalyst for substantially improving public transportation throughout Kern County and the region.



Rendering of the new HSR station in Bakersfield

Golden Empire Transit District (GET)

The Golden Empire Transit District (GET) is the primary public transportation provider for the Bakersfield Urbanized Area. GET is the largest public transit system within a 110-mile radius. The District's legal boundary includes Bakersfield city limits as well as adjacent unincorporated areas. GET has a fleet of 90 compressed natural gas buses equipped with wheelchair lifts and bike racks. GET services 15 routes, which operate 7 days a week and transport more than 6 million passengers each year with its fixed-route buses. GET anticipates adding at least five high quality routes to run every 15 minutes. In addition, GET operates 21 compressed natural gas Demand Response buses and 14 Hydrogen Fuel cell buses. GET will provide public transportation throughout the City of Bakersfield and connect to the future Bakersfield HSR Station.

Kern Transit

Kern Transit provides passenger bus service connecting the rural communities of Kern County with one another and with the urban centers of Bakersfield and Lancaster. Kern Transit provides intercity and regional fixed route and Dial-A-Ride (DAR) service within many Kern County communities including: Arvin, Bakersfield, Boron, California City, Delano, Frazier Park, Inyokern, Keen, Kernville, Lake Isabella, Lamont, Lebec, McFarland, Mojave, North Edwards, Ridgecrest, Rosamond, Shafter, Taft, Tehachapi, Wasco, and Wofford Heights. Kern Transit also connects with Metrolink in Lancaster (Los Angeles County). Once HSR begins operations in the San Joaquin Valley, the Bakersfield HSR Station will become a key hub station for the Kern Transit network.

Thruway Bus Service

Until HSR extends to Southern California, longer-distance Thruway buses will bring San Joaquin Valley travelers from the Bakersfield HSR Station to destinations throughout Southern California and to Las Vegas. These Thruway buses will meet every HSR round-trip at the Bakersfield HSR Station providing enhanced connectivity to the largest population centers/travel markets in California, as well as some of the most popular travel destinations in the country.

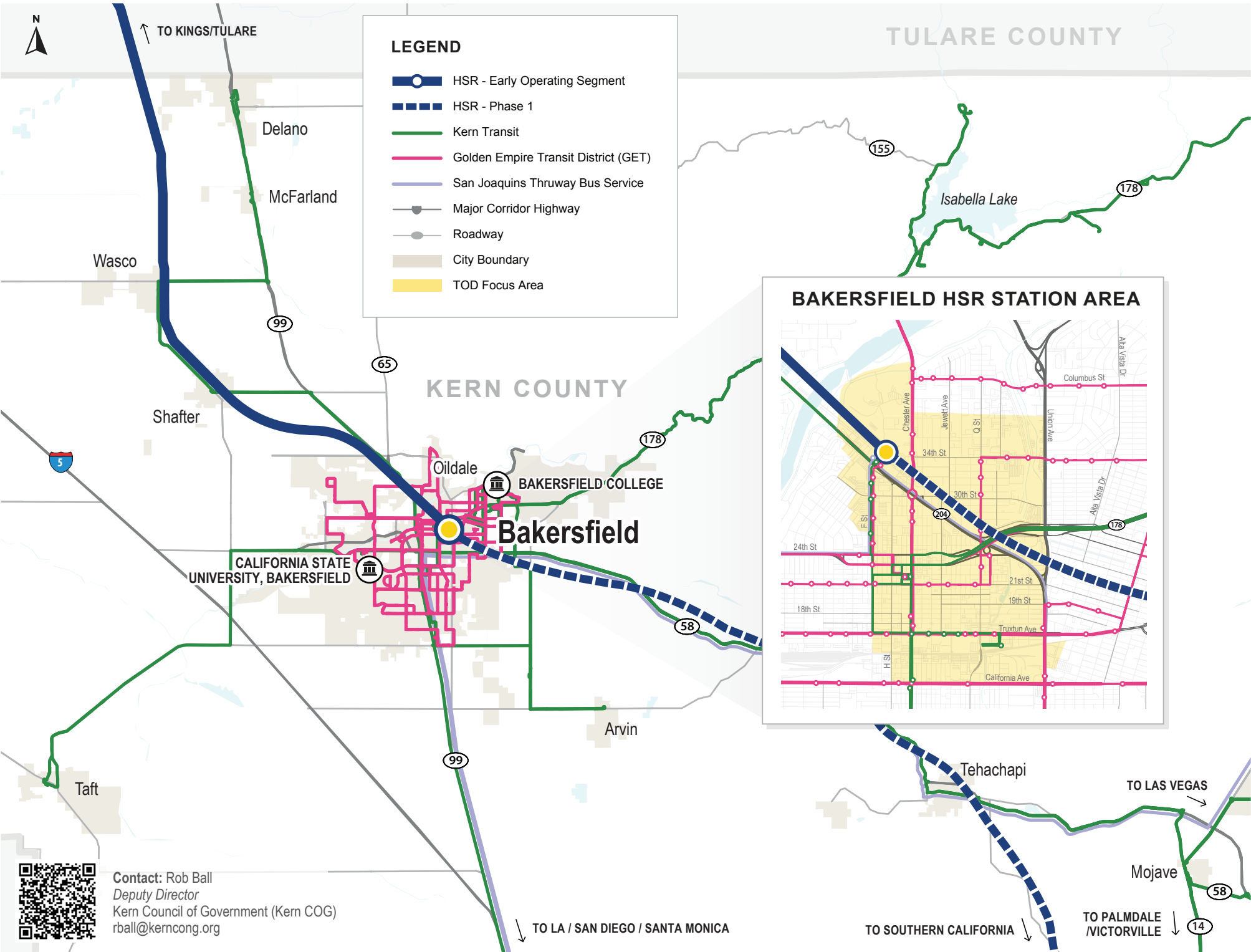
Transit Oriented Development (TOD)

The Bakersfield HSR Station, located near the intersection of SR 204 (Golden State Avenue) and F Street, will be a focal point for new TOD in the City of Bakersfield. The city will adopt plans, policies, zoning provisions, and design criteria, to encourage higher densities, promote job creation, and incorporate a mix of urban land uses around the Bakersfield HSR Station. The "Downtown Bakersfield HSR Station Area Plan" aims to guide future development around the Bakersfield HSR Station, and to transform the area around the planned HSR station into a vibrant, multi-modal transportation hub and a key driver of economic development and sustainability for Bakersfield. The plan focuses on connecting existing activity centers, creating an efficient transit system, developing underutilized properties, and enhancing the city's overall livability and sense of place.



DETAILED MAP ON BACK

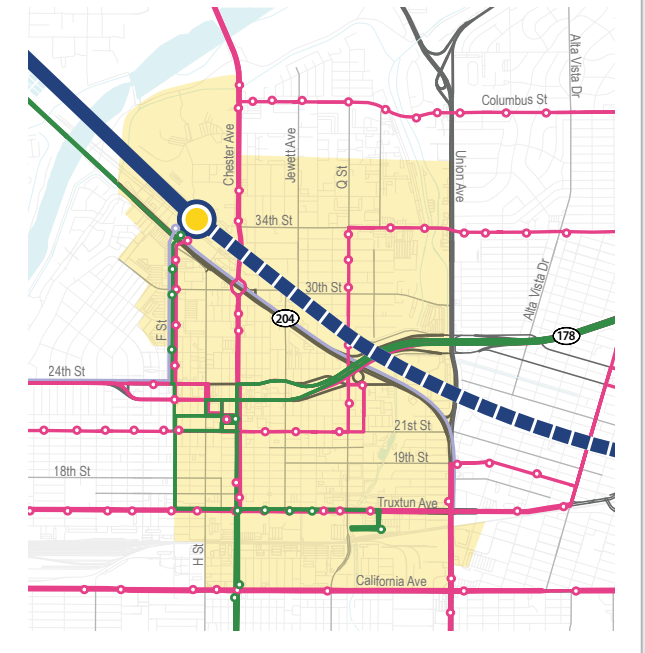




LEGEND

- HSR - Early Operating Segment
- - - HSR - Phase 1
- Kern Transit
- Golden Empire Transit District (GET)
- San Joaquins Thruway Bus Service
- Major Corridor Highway
- Roadway
- City Boundary
- TOD Focus Area

BAKERSFIELD HSR STATION AREA



Contact: Rob Ball
 Deputy Director
 Kern Council of Government (Kern COG)
 rball@kerncong.org

