

**KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MEETING OF REGIONAL HIGH-SPEED RAIL SUB-COMMITTEE**

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**Wednesday
October 08, 2025
11:00 A.M.**

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order :**
- II. Approval of Discussion Summary:**
 - a. Meeting Notes from August 13, 2025
- III. HSR Updates- Information Item**
 - a. High-Speed Rail Updates
 - b. Members of the Sub-Committee provide a brief report on their own activities/interactions with High-Speed Rail
- IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting December 10, 2025 at 11:00 A.M.

Kern COG High Speed Rail Sub Committee Meeting Notes
Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 11:00 A.M.

Clay Lomax	CHSRA	Michael James	Shafter
Lorena Mendibles	Caltrans	Joshua Champlin	Kern County
Scott Hurlbert	Wasco	Alex Bedolla	Kern County
Luis Topete	Bakersfield		
Ricardo Perez	Golden Empire Transit	Staff:	Victoria Romero Valdivia
Jain Noopur	CHSRA		Irene Enriquez
Alice Rodriguez	CHSRA		Rob Ball

A. Approval of Meeting Notes from June 11, 2025, approved (no comments)

B. HSR Updates

1. Project:

- a. HSR monthly and weekly meetings are continuing.
- b. HSR is currently in a review phase with specific design items with direction from new leadership.
- c. Right-of-way acquisitions are still moving forward.
- d. Joy Pinne has retired, and Jain Noopur will be taking her place.
- e. HSR and Jay Schlosser met in the previous week to discuss events happening at the federal level of HSR.
 1. The Federal Railroad Administration has agreed to put a stay on the spending of the funds that were promised while HSR is in litigation.
 2. Mr. Topete asked a question about the impact of the funds on the progress of the HSR. Ms. Rodriguez explained and clarified these effects for Mr. Topete.
 3. Mr. James asked a question regarding his concern about the risk of his project's timing. Mr. Lomax and Ms. Rodriguez will be discussing this matter and giving an update to Mr. James in the next meeting.
 4. Mr. Hurlbert also raised his concerns about how the funding may affect Wasco. Ms. Rodriguez reassured Mr. Hurlbert that Central Valley will be seeing those funds.
 5. Mr. Ball asked a question regarding the 7th standard mitigation project. Ms. Rodriguez, Mr. Lomax, and Mr. Champlin provided sufficient information.

2. Agreements

- a. Co-Operative Agreements/MSAs are being renewed with all the agencies
- b. Caltrans continues to hold staff-level meetings on a bi-weekly basis
- c. CHSRA has worked with Caltrans on renewing various permits, SR 43, SR 99, and SR 204, to perform potholing and geotechnical investigations

- d. Optimization for Caltrans touchpoints is in progress
- e. Utility agreements continue to be finalized; Companies who are still in the negotiations stage: So. Cal. Gas, AT&T, North Kern Water Storage District

C. Agency Updates:

GET – No update.

Kern County – No update.

Bakersfield – Bakersfield is in the process of awarding a contract for engineering or coordinating activities with HSR. A potential candidate is Parsons.

Shafter – Shafter is in the process of awarding a contract.

Caltrans – Caltrans will be implementing a District Transit Plan. Caltrans will be collecting data and other information. More information to follow in the coming meetings.

Next meeting will be October 8, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. Meeting adjourned at 11:29 A.M.