Environmental and Other Co-benefits of Developing a High Speed Rail System in California: A Prospective Vision 2010 – 2050

Symposium

December 2-3, 2010
Faculty Club – UC Berkeley
Seaborg Room

Is a high-speed rail system connecting California’s major urban centers a good idea, and if so, for whom? in what way? Do financial analysis and ridership projections tell the story, or are there environmental, social, and political considerations that should count in answering these questions?

This event will gather top national and international researchers and policy experts to discuss the environmental, economic and other effects of developing a HSR system in California going beyond predictions of ridership and financial viability of the project itself, this symposium will introduce some of the non-market benefits and costs HSR in California may produce to be able to inform more complete benefit-cost analyses, focusing on a 2050 scenario of the full-fledge development of this megaproject in 2050.

The format of this invitation-only meeting is designed to maximize exchange of ideas, including ideas that would not otherwise collide (or reinforce each other) in the usual kind of policy debate. Participants will be expected to have read the full set of commissioned papers before the meeting so time will not be wasted in presentation or lecturing, and the papers will each survey the key unresolved issues, available evidence, positions of important players, and relevant research to serve as a background for discussion among participants. Each session will be an open discussion among participants, led by an experienced facilitator, with participant respondents/rapporteurs offering reflections on the sessions at the end of each session.
Thursday, December 2nd

Welcome Dinner
6 – 8 pm

Dinner Keynote Speaker: Denis Doute, CEO SNCF America

Friday, December 3rd

8 – 8:30 am
Registration/Breakfast

8:30 – 10:15 am
Welcome: Blas Pérez Henríquez, UC Berkeley

Panel 1: *Environmental Aspects of HSR in California*

Paper Author: Elizabeth Deakin, UC Berkeley
Moderator: Lee Schipper, UC Berkeley
Respondent: Samer Madanat, UC Berkeley

10:30 – 12:00pm
Panel 2: *Co-benefits of HSR: Enhancing the Benefit/Cost Exercise*

Paper Author: Chris Nash, Leeds University
Moderator: Joan Walker, UC Berkeley
Respondent: Marlon Boarnet, UC Irvine

12 – 1:30pm
Luncheon Keynote Speaker: Jim Wunderman, President and CEO, Bay Area Council
1:30 – 3:00pm

Panel 3: *Community Aspects of Developing a HSR System in California*

Paper Author: Michael O’Hare, UC Berkeley

Moderator: Gian-Claudia Sciara, UC Davis

Respondent: Robert D. Infelise, UC Berkeley

3:30 – 5:30pm

Panel 4: *Economic Impacts of HSR: Lessons for California*

Paper Authors: Robert Cervero and Jin Murakami, UC Berkeley

Moderator: David Banister, University of Oxford

Respondent: John Quigley, UC Berkeley

Wrap-up Discussion