



# WESTERN HIGH-SPEED RAIL ALLIANCE

## THE WESTERN CONNECTION



# VISIONARIES AND MEMBERSHIP

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- Denver Regional Council of Governments (Denver, Colorado)
- Maricopa Association of Governments (Phoenix, Arizona)
- Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas, Nevada)
- Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County (Reno, Nevada)
- Utah Transit Authority (Salt Lake City, Utah)

# TRANSPORTATION REALITIES

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- Highway infrastructure around major metros is at capacity.
- Limited options for highway expansion
  - Lack of necessary funding at the federal level
  - Major environmental challenges
  - Escalating costs due to slow project delivery process
  - Limits of highway technology



# HSR IS PROVEN



- Japan created the first HSPR system in 1964 and no fatalities in 46 years.
- Preferred transportation mode in the Far East, Near East, Europe and now the Middle East
- Hundreds of billions is being invested in HSR globally.



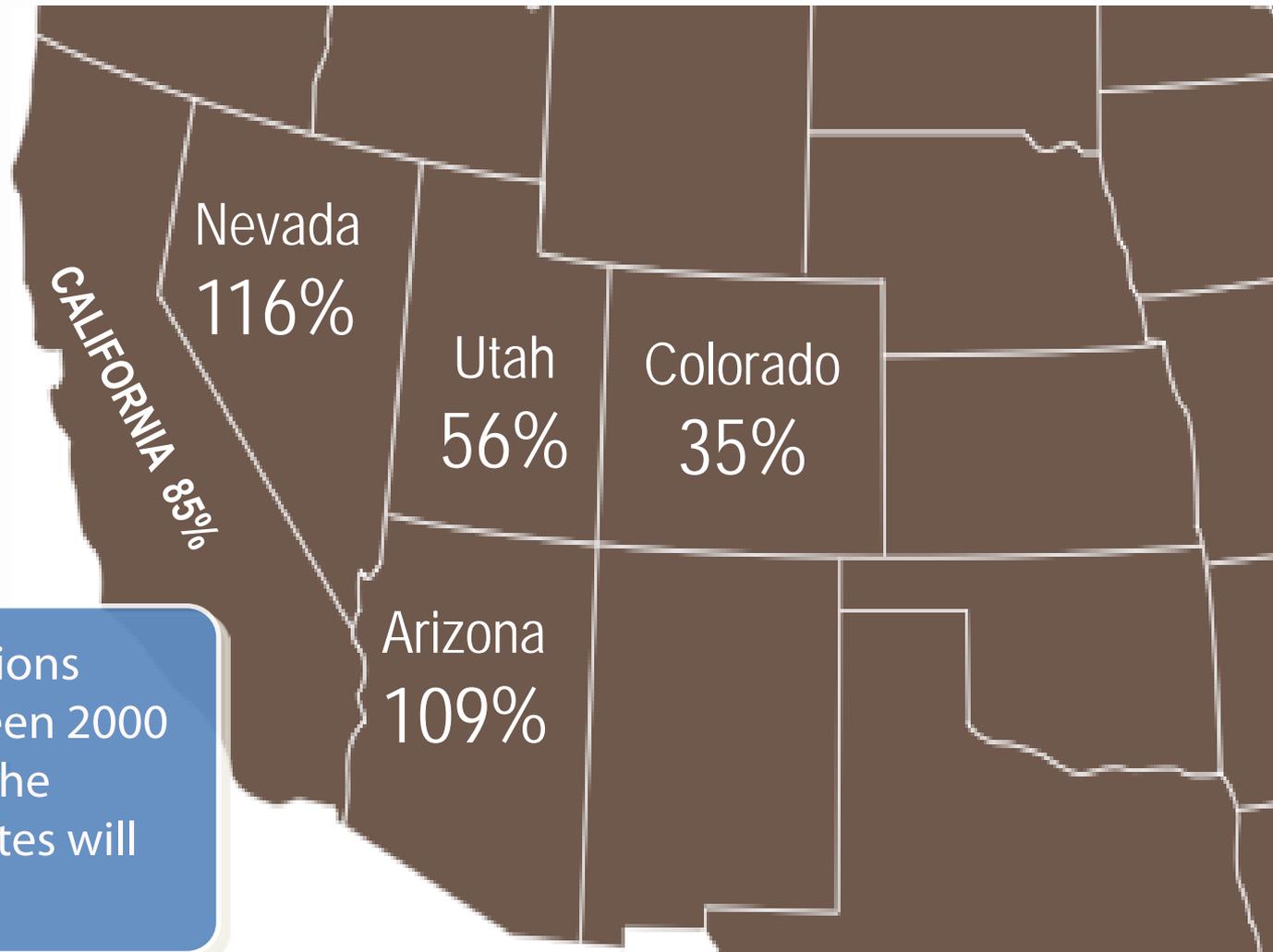


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# WESTERN HIGH SPEED RAIL OPPORTUNITIES

- HSR connecting the Western U.S. reduces highway and air traffic congestion
- Land acquisitions are minimal
- Availability of Federal lands
- Meets the criteria for HSR
- Provides modal choices

# POPULATION GROWTH FOR THE FIVE STATES



U.S. Census projections indicate that between 2000 and 2030, most of the fastest-growing states will be in the West.

# GROSS REGIONAL DOMESTIC PRODUCT FOR THESE FIVE STATES



Gross Regional Domestic Product of this five (5) State Region is nearly 25% of the nation's GDP.

# NSTPRC RECOMMENDATION

The National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, in 2008, recommended that the entire country (population centers within 500 miles of each other) should be connected by high-speed ICPR by 2050.



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# GAO CONCLUSION

Also in 2008, the General Accounting Office concluded, “Routes of 750 miles or more... show limited public benefits for dollars expended. These routes account for 15-percent of riders but 80-percent of financial losses. Corridor routes [less than 500 miles] perform better.”



# NEW VISION

- Developed societies need a growing transportation system.
- The answers must balance development and sustainability.
- Cultural shift in how we move people and goods



# HIGH SPEED RAIL IS...



- A new approach based on service between population centers within 500 miles
- Measures of success
  - On-time performance
  - Reduction of highway congestion
  - Lower greenhouse gas emissions



# HIGH SPEED RAIL

- Stations
  - Station Location is critical to the success for HSR. The first and last 25 miles is most important for the rider.
- Cost
  - The question is NOT what is this going to cost, rather what is the cost if we do nothing?
- System:
  - Have standards and connectivity of other systems.
  - Having many different pieces does not create a national system.



# MEMORY LANE

## Eisenhower Interstate Highway System

- Primarily for military mobilization
- Was a bold vision for the future
- Was highly criticized as a waste of money
- Started in the midwest
- Took 50 years to build
- Had a dedicated funding source
- Connected the US in a new fashion
- Built a new America .



# LEGISLATIVE NEEDS

- Legislative recognition for agencies and organizations that have regional cooperation and development of regional corridors
- Provide a mechanism for multi-state and regional authorities to conduct studies and plan projects
- Public & private sector investment incentives



# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Funding Request
  - \$5 million in House and Senate FY2011 Transportation appropriations
  - \$30 million Highway authorization bill
- Received \$1 million planning grant from FRA for future corridor studies

# MOVING FORWARD

- Expand membership to other jurisdictions, entities and associations, both public and private
- Encourage development of new corridors beyond the existing passenger rail network



# MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN HIGH-SPEED RAIL ALLIANCE

DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (DRCOG)  
Denver, Colorado

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (MAG)  
Phoenix, Arizona

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF SOUTHERN NEVADA (RTC)  
Las Vegas, Nevada

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF WASHOE COUNTY  
(RTC) Reno, Nevada

UTAH TRANSIT AUTHORITY (UTA)  
Salt Lake City, Utah

