# Western High Speed Rail Alliance / State Rail Plan Update

## MAG Regional Council February 23, 2011

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS

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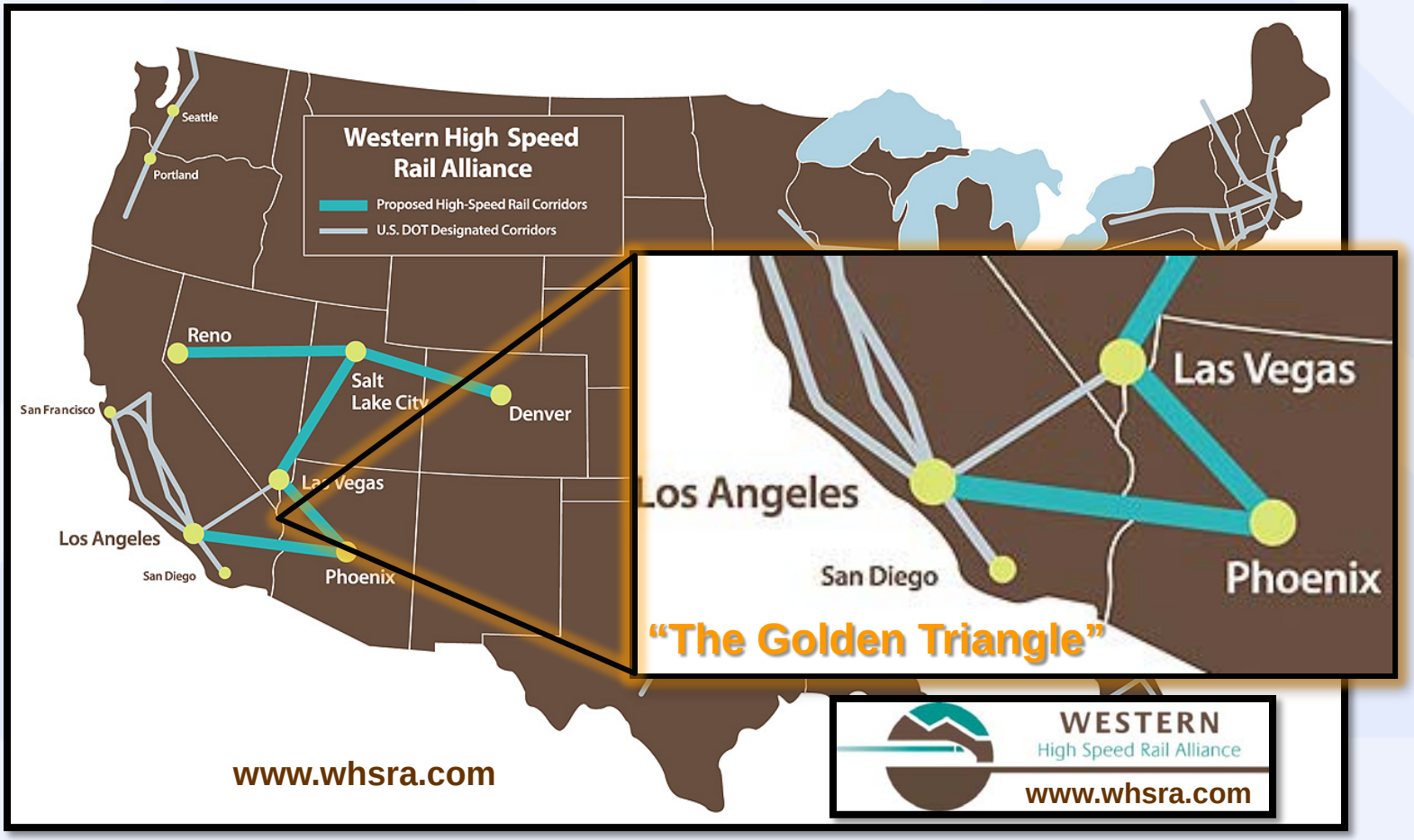
•WHSRA members Nevada DOT / Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas) made progress with Federal Railroad Administration on high speed rail studies.

•Funding had been allocated by the FRA in late 2010 for high speed rail corridor studies between Phoenix, Los Angeles and Las Vegas, also known as **The Golden Triangle**, and additional details are forthcoming.

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bqaz

## COORDINATION WITH *BUILDING A QUALITY ARIZONA ~ STATE RAIL PLAN*

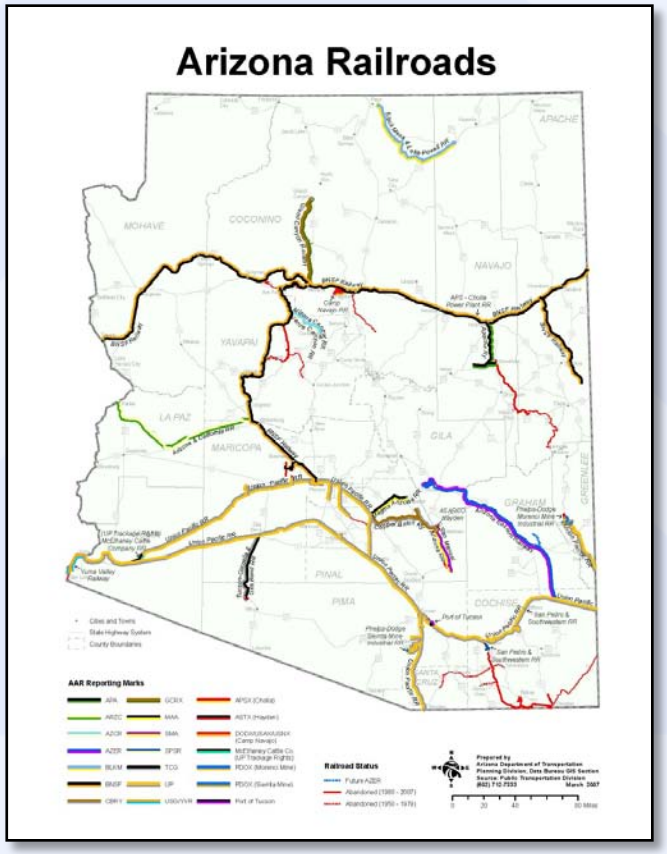
The ***Arizona State Rail Plan*** is the next step in implementing the Statewide Rail Framework for passenger and freight rail transportation in Arizona. Building on the Statewide Rail Framework, the Plan will achieve the following objectives:

- Identify 20-year rail projects and initiatives.
- Prioritize rail investments that need to be made to achieve Arizona's vision and goals.
- Develop the decision-making process for rail investments.

•MAG is also coordinating with ADOT to assist in implementing MAG Region goals/objectives as identified within the new ADOT/BQAZ State Rail Plan.

•Completed State Rail Plan is a federal requirement for federal funding participation in state rail studies. Final draft of State Rail Plan was presented to the State Transportation Board on Monday January 10, 2011. Comments and suggestions from the Board will be incorporated into the document and a final draft will be submitted to the FRA in spring/summer 2011.

•FRA encourages that the plan be updated and revised annually by ADOT, as it is considered a dynamic, ever-changing document.

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# AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HSR IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

As highway capacity between major metropolitan centers becomes increasingly overburdened, the corresponding options for expansion are also increasingly limited. Environmental challenges, right-of-way constraints, escalating costs and the limits of highway technology all contribute to the demise of unlimited highway expansion. Connecting the western U.S. would be the first step toward reducing air traffic and highway congestion, while in turn increasing interstate highway capacity for trucking and improving air quality by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Connecting Western states via high-speed rail is the future of our nation.

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