

Assembly Transportation Committee
Oversight Hearing

High-speed Rail Project Status Update

Monday, February 25, 2013
1:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 4202

On July 18, 2012, Governor Brown signed into law SB 1029 to allow construction of the nation's first high-speed rail network to commence. SB 1029 appropriated the first \$8 billion of an estimated \$68 billion needed to complete a network 520 miles long between San Francisco and Los Angeles/Anaheim.

The process leading up to this monumental appropriation was not an easy one. Early on, the California High-speed Rail Authority (Authority) stumbled in its projections, its estimates, and its outreach, and the Legislature responded with countless hearings, inquiries, and reporting requirements. Finally, the Governor weighed in and, with a few key appointments and a revised game plan, appears to have righted the otherwise wayward project.

With the initial appropriation in hand, the arduous task of building this system has begun. Many challenges, and opportunities, lay ahead. Now, perhaps more than ever, it is imperative that the Legislature stay diligent in its oversight role to ensure the greatest likelihood of success in this project.

The purpose of today's hearing is to glean a better understanding of the status of the project, its challenges, and its opportunities. Additionally, the Authority will be asked to speak to its efforts to remedy concerns raised last year by the Legislature, the Auditor, and the High-speed Rail Peer Review Group regarding its organizational structure, staffing, and business processes. Finally, the Authority will be asked to discuss other issues it believes will need to be addressed by the Legislature in the upcoming session.