



**MIDWEST
HIGH SPEED RAIL
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Californian's Votes Yes for High-Speed Rail.

California voters have authorized their state to take the first serious step toward funding a 220-mph high-speed rail system. In passing Proposition 1A, the people of California approved \$10 billion in bonding authority that will allow the state to raise funds for planning and building the system's initial infrastructure.

When fully built out, the California high-speed rail system will connect San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento and dozens of intermediate stops with a fleet of 220-mph electrified trains. Travelers will be able to travel from Los Angeles to San Francisco in about 2½ hours.

"The size and scope of passenger rail investment in the United States just increased by a factor of ten," said Midwest High Speed Rail Association Executive Director Richard Harnish. "The immense vision and scale of modern, electrified, grade-separated high-speed rail is now part of an American project.

"With this vote, national transportation policy and national travel habits will change forever," Harnish said. He explained that, historically, cultural innovations in the U.S. begin on the West Coast and migrate east.

"These innovations include not only lifestyle trends from sandals to sushi, but new forms of transportation as well," he said. "The Santa Monica Freeway morphed into the Interstate Highway Program; San Francisco's Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) made new subways in Washington, Baltimore, Atlanta and Los Angeles possible. San Diego led a revolution in light-rail lines that has spread to 26 other U.S. cities and more than 100 communities worldwide.

"California's decision to build high-speed rail thus takes its place in a growing tradition of successful transportation pioneering," Harnish said, predicting that, "The new system will not long remain unique." "Once Americans have sampled the new California system, they will demand that it be replicated in their own states and regions," he said.

The Midwest High Speed Rail Association is a member-supported non-profit educational organization promoting the development of fast, frequent and dependable train service connecting the entire Midwest. Our members include business leaders, mayors and individuals that want the option of traveling by train.