



RIVERSIDE  
COUNTY  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

# COACHELLA VALLEY RAIL PROJECT UPDATE

CITY OF COACHELLA CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 25, 2023

*Aaron Hake, Deputy Executive Director*

# Why Coachella Valley Rail?

- ✓ **Transformational** – Transforms the way Californians will travel
- ✓ **Connections** – Links LA, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside counties
- ✓ **Access & Equity** – Options for residents in disadvantaged communities
- ✓ **Economic Investment** – Expands access to the regional economy
- ✓ **Sustainability** – Combats climate change by reducing vehicle use



144 **MILES**  
**Route Length**

100% **Commission Supported** ✓

▶ **SoCal Population**  
24 Million

▶ **Inland Empire Population**  
4.65 Million

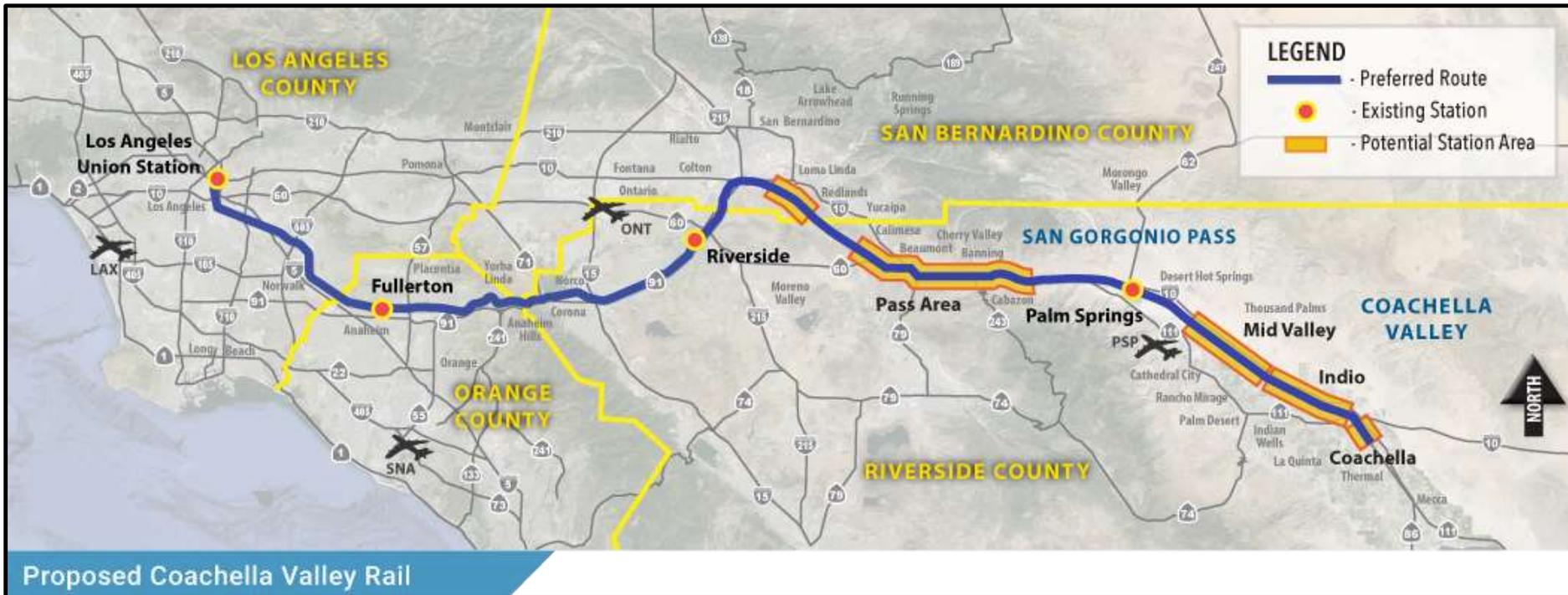


**Running Time**  
Los Angeles to Coachella Valley

No. of  
**Proposed Stations** 9

▶ **San Geronio Pass Travelers**  
160,000 / Day

# Coachella Valley Rail Corridor



# Strong Public Support



11 Stakeholder & Agency Briefings



2 Virtual Public Hearings



3,226 Page Views  
[rctc.org/cvtrail](http://rctc.org/cvtrail)



504 Comments Received



## Notification Efforts – English & Spanish

- 9 Email Notices
- 2 News Releases
- The Point Blog Posts
- 22 Social Media Posts
- Project Website
- Video Campaign
- 11 Print/Online Ads
- Geofencing Ads

# Project Status



- Program-Level (Tier 1) EIS/EIR
- Service Development Plan

# Funding need and opportunities

- Seeking \$20 million of the \$60 million needed to complete Tier 2
  - Federal funds
    - Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program
    - Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
  - State Funds
- Local support critical to success
- Support in Congress and State Legislature



## Leading the conversation

- RCTC Ad Hoc Committee
- Trip to Washington DC - September 19 - 21, 2022
- California Transportation Secretary visit
- Governor's Infrastructure Advisor meetings
- Significant media interest

By [Samantha Lombao](#) FOLLOW

September 20, 2022 11:34 PM Published September 20, 2022 5:18 PM



## Local officials head to D.C. to seek funding for Coachella Valley Rail

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

News | Train from LA to Palm Springs area – at a \$1...

### Train from LA to Palm Springs area – at a \$1 billion cost – planned

Project offers alternative to 10 Freeway and would connect residents to attractions at both ends of route

Progressive RAILROADING

AirTalk with Lynn Wallace  
0893 KPCC

RAILWAY AGE

Proposed L.A.-Indio Passenger Rail Service Makes Headway

CVREPORTER

The Riverside Record

New momentum, federal support has commuter rail between valley, LA on track

This week, representatives from multiple local governments are meeting with elected officials and others in Washington, D.C. The goal? Build on recent bipartisan support to see commuter rail finally come to the Coachella Valley.

### Train From Coachella Valley To Los Angeles Could Be Coming Soon



at \$5 card

Desert Sun.

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FOR SUBSCRIBERS ENVIRONMENT

Train between the Coachella Valley and Los Angeles could happen in the next decade



# GAINING MOMENTUM

Train connecting the Coachella Valley to Los Angeles no longer a mere pipe dream

Erin Rode Palm Springs Desert Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

Like many other cities in the West, Indio started as a railroad town. Southern Pacific began operating trains to Indio in 1876, connecting the Coachella Valley to Los Angeles and beyond and sparking growth and development in the city.

Passenger trains stopped in Indio for over a century, until Amtrak halted service to the desert station in the late 1990s. In more recent years, passing freight trains have entertained customers at El Mexicali Café, a long-standing institution near the tracks on Indio Boulevard.

Indio City councilman Raymond Farnon is a proponent of the Coachella Valley-San Geronimo Rail Project and hopes to one day have a train station built in this area in Indio.

JAY CALLESPON/THE DESERT SUN

See TRAIN, Page 7A

Proposed Train Service Between Coachella Valley, L.A. Hits Milestone

This \$1 Billion Train Route From LA To Coachella Valley Is Right On Track RCTC Seeking \$20M To Move Forward With Coachella Valley Rail Project

Passenger rail 'on the track' for Coachella Valley to LA route



# Stay Connected



[rctc.org](http://rctc.org)



951.787.7141



[info@rctc.org](mailto:info@rctc.org)



@theRCTC

**Project Webpage:  
[www.rctc.org/cvr](http://www.rctc.org/cvr)**

