



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of January 22, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 5-C

PREPARED BY: Sandy Ebersole, Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT:

2024 California State Rail Plan

Enclosure: No

Action: Information and Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

The California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) released the [2024 California State Rail Plan](#), a long-range vision of statewide investments to create a zero-emission, fully interconnected rail and transit network as part of California's ambitious climate change goals.

The plan calls for creating a statewide rail network that connects seamlessly with other transportation modes, including intercity, regional, and local transit systems, to make traveling by train a more attractive option compared to car or air travel.

Key benefits of the plan include:

- Shifting nearly 200 million daily passenger miles from state highways to the statewide rail network, reducing road congestion and emissions;
- Increasing access for all Californians to lower-cost, low and zero-emission transportation options with more frequent service to connect passengers to a broader range of destinations;
- Enhancing safety through grade-crossing improvements and Positive Train Control (PTC) to reduce collision risks and improve safety across the network; and
- Investing in California's economy to create well-paying jobs and improved opportunities to move people and goods more efficiently throughout the state.

Regional plans will build on the Rail Plan by paving the way for improved regional rail service and transit networks, and as they set land use recommendations that leverage enhanced connectivity. The Rail Plan presents California's goals for providing and connecting services in

different regions and identifies service improvements and projects in the short-term (by 2028), mid-term (by 2034) and long-term (by 2050).

The plan envisions a direct capital investment of \$307 billion, with an estimated economic return of over \$537 billion by 2050. This investment is also expected to create 900,000 full time jobs for construction, maintenance, and operation industries, representing a significant boost to California's economy. A fully integrated statewide rail network will also improve access to opportunity for virtually all Californians without the costs of car-ownership.

For more information, please visit the [California State Rail Plan website](#).

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2024-25 Overall Work Program and Budget.