

CARRD High-Speed Rail Legislation

Recently passed legislation and new legislation under consideration.

Updated 4/30/09

Bill numbers are hyperlinked to their doc set; links in the Description column are of particular interest; votes are recorded & linked.

Changes: added AB 289, SB 391, SB 476, SB 526, SB 783; added hearing times & links to live web video; added subcommittees.

Senate Bills					
Bill	Author	Hearing Date	Description	Status/Update	Committee Location
SB 53	Ducheny		Studies creation of Dept. of Railroads. CPUC Analysis Against SB 53 7/2008.	Chaptered in Sept 2008.	
SB 409	Ducheny		Creates Dept. of Railroads, transferring all rail functions from Caltrans to new dept; also moves rail safety from CPUC to rail dept. (see CPUC Report)	4/14 Trans Com: placed on hold, waiting for CA Research Bureau's study due 5/1.	Sen Trans Com
SB 455	Lowenthal	May 4	Gov appointed members of CHSRA are subject to advice/consent of Senate. Also affects acquiring & insuring property, adds CHSRA to exemptions Caltrans benefits from, including property acquisition. Like Caltrans, they'd be exempt from DGS, SPWB and DOF body of law. Author amendments on 4/16. Trans Com Analysis added on 4/16.	4/21 Sen Trans: do pass (10-1) & re-refer to Appr. 4/28 May 4 hearing canceled at request of author.	Sen. Appropriations
SB 734	Lowenthal	April 28	Allocates funds for various projects including grade separation, freight, etc. Trans Com Analysis added 4/23.	4/28 Sen Trans: pass (10-0) to Appr recommend Consent Cal.	Sen Trans Com
SB 526	Ashburn	April 28	Requires the operation of at least 1 Amtrak train on San Joaquin (Altamont) route that terminates in SF. Trans Com Analysis added 4/23.	4/28 Sen Trans: pass (10-0)	Sen Trans Com
SB 527	Ashburn	April 28	States intent of Legislature to reorganize the CHSRA to ensure greater oversight and accountability for HSR project. (lip service) 4/28 Trans hearing canceled at request of author.	3/12 to RLS Com 4/16 referred to Trans. Committee.	Sen Trans Com
SB 783	Ashburn	File date April 30	Establishes additional requirements for CHSRA business plan. Trans Com Analysis added 4/23.	3/19 to RLS Com 4/16 referred to Trans. Com. 4/28 Sen Trans: pass (10-0)	Senate
SB 686	DeSaulnier		Adds to the CEQA process. Env. Qual. Com Analysis (by Simitian) added 4/19. Senate Analysis Consent added 4/22. Senate Analysis Third Read added 4/23.	4/20 Env Qual Com: do pass (7-0) & to Consent Cal; 4/23 from CC. 4/27 Sen floor: 3 rd read pass (36-0) 4/27 in Assembly, first read.	Assembly
SB 476	Correa	File date April 30	Prohibits taking action against an agency for noncompliance with CEQA unless the complaints were presented to the agency orally or in writing during the public comment period. Author Amended 4/23 – significantly alters intent. Env Qual Com Analysis 4/23 by Simitian.	4/23 re-referred to Env Qual Com 4/27 Env Qual: do pass (6-0) re-refer to Appropriations	Senate
SB 555	Kehoe	April 28	Revises Eminent Domain Law to prohibit person from acquiring conservation easement by eminent domain unless specified procedures are followed. Allows current holder to state objections. Jud Com Analysis added on 4/20. Author amendments on 4/28.	4/21 Jud Com: do pass (3-2) as amended & re-referred to Sen Appr. 4/28 Second read, amend, to Appr.	Sen Appr
SB 391	Liu, Lowenthal	April 27	Requires Caltrans to address trans. planning policy & process; relates to sustainable communities strategy. Does not specifically include HSR.	4/21 Trans: do pass (7-4) 4/27 Env Qual: do pass (5-2)	Sen Appr
SB 454	Lowenthal		Non-substantive wording change.	3/12 referred to Com on RLS.	Sen Rules Com
SB 165	Lowenthal	April 28	Sale of surplus Caltrans properties along Highway 84 in Fremont & Union City apply to only non-residential props; will be used for alt. trans plan. Trans Com Analysis added 4/23.	4/14 Author amendments 4/16 re-referred to Trans Com. 4/28 Trans: do pass (9-1) to Appr.	Sen Appr

Assembly Bills

Bill	Author	Hearing Date	Description	Status/Update	Committee Location
AB 153	Ma	April 29 9:00 am	Exempts CHSRA from certain contingencies related to eminent domain, giving them greater autonomy when acquiring rights-of-way. Jud Com Analysis 4/13. Trans Com Analysis 3/20. ApprCom Analysis 4/28.	3/23 Trans Com: do pass (9-3) & re-referred to Jud. 4/14 Jud Com: do pass (7-2) & re-referred to Appr Com. 4/29 Appr: do pass (11-5)	Asm Appropriations
AB 338	Ma	File date April 30	Increases definition of transit village from ¼ to ½ mile of main entrance of a transit station. Affects affordable housing, density, funding of TODs. Unclear whether it adds or removes protections to affected properties. Authorizes city or county to make infrastructure improvements without voter approval. Requires local govts to use at least 20% of tax increment of certain bond funds for affordable housing. Asm Com on Local Gov Analysis 3/31. Asm Appr Analysis 4/21. Asm Analysis 4/29.	4/2 Com on Local Gov: do pass (4-2) & re-referred to Appr Com. 4/22 Appr Com: do pass (11-5) 4/27 Second reading 4/28 Third reading	Assembly
AB 289	Galgiani	File date April 30	Exempts high-speed grade separation projects from having to meet CEQA. Author amendments on 4/14, significantly altered content. Trans Com Analysis 4/24. Asm Analysis 4/27	4/15 re-referred to Trans Com 4/27 Trans: do pass to floor (13-0) 4/29 Second reading	Assembly 3rd reading
AB 733	Galgiani	April 29 9:00 am	Authorizes CHSRA to create jobs, award contracts, purchase trains. Trans Com Analysis 4/17. Appr Com Analysis 4/28.	4/20 Trans. Com: do pass (13-0) & re-referred to Appr Com. 4/29 Appr: do pass (16-0)	Assembly Appropriations
AB 1375	Galgiani	April 27	Repeal and reenact CHST Act in Public Utilities Code. Creates new Dept. of Rail. Similar to SB 409. Trans Com Analysis 4/24.	3/31 Referred to Trans. Committee. 4/27 Trans: do pass (9-4) & refer to Appr. Com.	Asm Appropriations

Senate Committee Info:

Committee (no. members)	Hearings	Chair	Vice Chair	Upcoming hearings of interest (non-bill items)
Appropriations (13)	Mon 11:00	Kehoe	Cox	
Budget & Fiscal Review (40)	Thurs 8:00	Ducheny	Dutton	
Budget Sub No2 Resources, Env, Energy, Trans (3)	Thurs 9:30	Simitian		April 30: CHSRA
Environmental Quality (7)	1/3 Mon 1:30	Simitian	Runner	
Judiciary (5)	Tues 1:00	Corbett	Harman	
Rules (5)	Wed 1:30	Steinberg	Aanestad	
Transportation & Housing (11)	Thurs 1:30	Lowenthal	Huff	

Assembly Committee Info:

Committee (no. members)	Hearings	Chair	Vice Chair	Upcoming hearings of interest (non-bill items)
Appropriations (17)	Wed 9:00	De Leon	Nielsen	
Budget (27)	Wed, on call	Evans	Niello	
Budget No5 Tech, Trans (5)	Wed 4:00	Blumenfield		April 29: CHSRA
Judiciary (10)	Tues 9:00	Feuer	Tran	
Natural Resources		Skinner	Gilmore	
Rules (11)	Mon, on call	Lieu	Blakeslee	
Transportation (14)	Mon 1:30	Eng	Jeffries	
Select Committee Trans (7)		Davis	Fletcher	

This legislative update is provided by **CARRD – Citizens Advocating Reasonable Rail Design.**

To receive an electronic version with active hyperlinks send email to rwespi@mathmatinee.com. Next update: 5/7/09.