

**Talking Points Prepared for FRA Administrator Amit Bose
CHSRA 10,000 Jobs & Counting Event
Press Conference Followed by Construction Visits
Tuesday, February 14, 2023**

Before I begin, I want to acknowledge the derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, that occurred on February 3rd, and assure everyone FRA is actively assisting the investigation led by The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) into the cause of this incident. Safety is USDOT and the Federal Railroad Administration's top priority, and we will continue to work with our local, state, and federal partners to advance safety.

Thank you to the California High-Speed Rail Authority for inviting me.

It's a pleasure to be here for this incredible milestone, particularly one week after President Biden's State of the Union address that focused on jobs and the economy.

Ten thousand jobs and counting is an accomplishment. But event that number can't capture what it means to workers, their families, and communities.

Last year, I visited the Authority's high-speed rail workforce development center in Selma, California, and I met people throughout the Central Valley who enrolled in the pre-apprenticeship classes.

These individuals, and the 10,000+ working on the first full high-speed rail system in construction in America, are making history.

I commend them for their dedication, and I am grateful for the pride they put into their work.

This project is unparalleled, and the federal government will continue to partner with California to deliver the passenger rail benefits people want and deserve.

The Department of Transportation and Federal Railroad Administration will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the workers and cities of California to deliver this project.

We're going to get there. Progress is happening. Today makes this point clear, and more progress lies ahead.

High-speed rail will revolutionize travel in California and the United States, and contribute to a greener future, resulting in less congestion on our roads and at our airports.

Recently, I had the honor of join President Biden and Secretary Buttigieg in Baltimore to celebrate progress on the Baltimore and Potomac Tunnel project. While there, the President passionately and unequivocally, “to have the best economy in the world, you have to have the best infrastructure in the world.”

Thanks to Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and a historic \$66 billion in rail funding, we have an opportunity to grow a safer, cleaner, and more equitable rail system.

We have an opportunity to modernize rail infrastructure, invest further in transformative rail projects, like California High-Speed rail, and get people where they need to go safely and quickly.

The Federal Railroad Administration has had a longstanding interest in this project, with the Department of Transportation investing approximately \$3.5 billion in federal funding, most recently awarding a \$25 million RAISE grant under the Biden-Harris Administration to advance the design work of the Merced to Madera segment of its project.

I am excited to continue working with the California High-Speed Rail Authority to make more progress, and I know Californians are eager to have high-speed rail as a travel option right here in America.

This project is not just a jobs program. It’s about what these jobs are creating.

America should always lead the way in technology and infrastructure — and that means Americans shouldn’t have to look abroad to see world-class passenger rail.

Today is a prime example of how investments in modern and transformative rail projects lead to good jobs and unlock economic opportunities.

It's a powerful reminder of the historic progress underway here in California and all the benefits still to come.

Thank you again to all the workers for their dedication and thank you to the individuals contributing to making high-speed rail a reality in America.

The federal government stands firmly behind this project, and it's an honor to stand here today to mark this milestone.

Today's occasion is just one of the many milestones we will celebrate as this truly transformative project continues to advance, and I look forward to celebrating more occasions with you.