

American High Speed Rail Alliance Industry News Update



DesertXpress Enterprises, LLC (DXE) is a group of companies from California and Nevada who have invested over \$25 million in private dollars over the past seven years to develop DesertXpress.

Dozens of prominent national and international planning, engineering, and architectural firms have been involved in the project to date.



The DesertXpress Project

Project development work began with initial system planning in 2002. Subsequently, preliminary engineering and the federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process began in 2006 and the Federal Railroad Administration released a draft EIS last year.

The comment period on the supplemental draft EIS closes on October 18, 2010. This is a very important step in the environmental review process required by federal law which could be completed as soon as the end of this year.

DesertXpress Would Become First to Leverage Public Loan for Private HSR Venture

The American High Speed Rail Alliance (AHSRA) yesterday attended a news conference at the University of Nevada Las Vegas where Secretary LaHood and Senator Reid expressed their support for the DesertXpress high speed rail project linking Las Vegas to Southern California. "Over three years DesertXpress will bring more than 30,000 jobs to the region," said Senator Reid. "This train can't arrive soon enough for Nevada."

DesertXpress intends to submit an application for a federal Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) loan as part of their financing package. The unique economics of the Las Vegas-Southern California corridor are projected to enable DesertXpress to cover the cost of operations and capital from system revenue. This privately funded project will bring billions in investment and tens of thousands of jobs to the Southern California region in addition to the 30,000 jobs created in Nevada, both construction and permanent high-paying railroad operating positions.

"I look forward to work with DesertXpress," said Transportation Secretary LaHood. "This train has left the station and will not stop until it has connected to the rest of the nation!"

"The American High Speed Rail Alliance applauds this tremendous step forward, showing the business case for high speed rail - from the sheer number of jobs created to the economic impact that transit oriented development brings," said Mary Ellen Curto, Executive Director, American High Speed Rail Alliance. "With today's announcement, the future of high speed rail really is right around the corner, and it looks very, very bright."

DesertXpress would become the nation's first new, exclusive passenger-only interstate high speed passenger railroad, linking Las Vegas and Southern California through nearly 200 miles of double track rail primarily alongside Interstate 15. Fully electric multiple unit trains will operate initially at 150 mph on 20 minute departures from both ends of the line during peak periods, with no interruptions from freight trains and no grade crossings."

"We strongly support high speed rail," said Ron Kloos, International Vice President and National Legislative Director for the Transportation Communications Union and a member of the AHSRA Advisory Board. "It will mean good-paying jobs for American families, and it will mean a stronger American economy. Secretary LaHood's announcement on DesertXpress



DesertXpress preliminary estimates indicate that the construction phase of the project will generate 17,500 primary jobs in Clark County and 28,000 primary jobs in San Bernardino County.



Expected secondary employment is 16,500 for Clark County and 26,500 for San Bernardino County. In total, DesertXpress is estimated to bring 88,000 total jobs to Clark County and San Bernardino County.

means all of that and more, and it's a perfect example on how the Federal government can help promote an American high speed rail network and help create jobs."

The American High Speed Rail Alliance is an umbrella organization representing all the stakeholders in efforts to develop HSR in the U.S. AHSRA seeks to help corridors like California-Nevada tap into funding and resolve regulatory and technical issues such as standardization and Buy America. AHSRA looks forward to working with DesertXpress and others to advocate for legislative and regulatory changes to encourage HSR development across the country.

High Speed Rail A Smart Investment in America's Future

The American High Speed Rail Alliance is dedicated to creating and sustaining a clean, energy efficient, advanced national high speed rail system for the United States.

As a non-profit membership organization, the Alliance advocates for a robust national high speed rail network financed through a broad range of grants, loans, public private partnerships and other innovative investment strategies.

For more information please visit www.americanhsra.org.

