

# Investing in California Small Businesses

SMALL BUSINESS NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 10: ISSUE 2

SPRING 2022



## *Small Business Program*

The Authority is committed to small businesses playing a major role in building the statewide high-speed rail system. The Small Business Program has an aggressive 30 percent goal for small business participation including Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) and Micro-Business (MB).

# Investing in California Small Business

**SMALL BUSINESS NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 2  
SPRING 2022**

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To access and download more information pertaining to the small business program, visit the Small Business Resources webpage at [https://hsr.ca.gov/small\\_business/](https://hsr.ca.gov/small_business/)

The *Investing in California Small Businesses* newsletter is published quarterly by the Office of Communications of the California High-Speed Rail Authority.

To view past newsletters visit:

[https://hsr.ca.gov/small\\_business/newsletter.aspx](https://hsr.ca.gov/small_business/newsletter.aspx)

## Table of Contents

- 3 *Full Speed Ahead in 2022*
- 5 *Small Business Events*
- 6 *Speedreads*
- 8 *Get Technical Assistance Through Your Local PTAC*
- 9 *High-Speed Rail Moving Down the Track with Major Procurements*
- 10 *Studio Designs Inclusive High-Speed Rail Stations*
- 12 *JMA Civil's Freight Relocation Projects Advance HSR Construction, Opens Other Doors*
- 14 *Hoisting High-Speed Rail Into Place*
- 16 *High-Speed Rail Happenings at the Cedar Viaduct*
- 17 *Spring 2022 Construction Update*



**CALIFORNIA**  
**High-Speed Rail Authority**

[www.hsr.ca.gov](http://www.hsr.ca.gov)



"We have nearly 700 certified small businesses involved on the high-speed rail program statewide to date, and we couldn't be prouder to partner with all of you,"

Ashley Mistler  
Small Business Advocate  
California High-Speed Rail Authority

It's hard to believe as we roll into the month of May that we are getting closer to the halfway mark for 2022. And as with all things related to the nation's first high-speed rail program, we are moving ahead at full speed.

We recently issued our **2022 Business Plan**, which reaffirms the Authority's commitment to develop a clean, electrified Merced to Bakersfield high-speed rail interim line service as soon as possible. The plan also discusses major program progress across the state, as well as addresses areas of opportunity with new federal funding and pending Legislative approval of Governor Gavin Newsom's Transportation Infrastructure Package, including Proposition 1A bond funding for high-speed rail. The Authority's Board of Directors adopted the business plan during their two-day Board meeting last month and it is off to the Legislature.

We also made progress on the environmental front. Also at last month's meeting, the Board certified the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement and approved the approximately

90-mile San José to Merced project section in Northern California. This action marks the first certification of a project section environmental document in the Northern California region and the first in the San Francisco Bay Area. It takes us another step closer to delivering high-speed rail between the Silicon Valley and the Central Valley. Look for the final document for the San Francisco to San José document being issued in the coming months and the draft Palmdale to Burbank document for Southern California being issued later this year.

As far as the Authority's Small Business Program goes, we've been along for the ride on all of this action. Just in the last few months, the Authority has issued three major procurements for **Program Delivery Support**, design services for the **Merced to Madera** and **Fresno to Bakersfield Locally Generated Alternative** Sections and for design services to progress the **four stations in the Central Valley** located in Merced, Fresno, the Kings/Tulare area and Bakersfield. In support of these contracts, we partnered with our procurements group and our state partners to host same-day pre-bid events and small business participation workshops, with the design services for the station procurement event coming up on May 12. We've had great attendance at these events so far and we want to make sure our small businesses know about these opportunities.

Also on the procurement front, we are pleased to share with you all that we have recently updated our Environmental Justice and Limited English policies for the program. It had been several years since we updated these policies, and we were excited to have the opportunity to strengthen the language surrounding small business opportunities



Annette Picetti-Grosjean has joined the Authority as Small Business Outreach Coordinator, bringing her experience both at DGS and in the private sector.

to make sure we are meeting our 30% small business participation goals on our procurements.

In addition to this procurement news, we're excited to be doing more outreach events – even some in person – and we've recently made a great new addition to our small business program staff.

This February, we brought on Annette Picetti-Grosjean as the Small Business Outreach Coordinator for the program. Annette brings more than 20 years of experience in public marketing to this position. Most recently, while at the Department of General Services (DGS), she worked directly with the Small Business Certification unit within the Procurement division to develop outreach materials and host events, as well as working side-by-side with the outreach team to develop workshops, write marketing materials and host presentations. She spent more than a decade in the private sector in marketing, graphic design and project coordinating architectural services for two firms in the Sacramento region and brings that experience to the position as well.

In her role as Small Business Outreach Coordinator, she serves as a host to myriad



wonderful connections between people, businesses, the high-speed rail program and the state. She and the team are dedicated to educating, informing and inspiring the small business community on how they can participate in the program. We are extremely excited about the amount of experience, professionalism and enthusiasm Annette brings to our team!

On the outreach side, we've been working hard to line up a slew of events. On May 25, we will have a speaker from the Nor Cal PTAC (Procurement Technical Assistance Program) present during our Business Advisory Council quarterly meeting. You can read more about PTACs in this issue on page 8 and how you can get connected with your local PTAC, and you can check out our calendar on page 5 for additional PTAC events.

We are also looking forward to participating in our first in-person event since 2019! On May 22, we will be participating in DGS's **Connecting Point Expo**. This event, held in Sacramento, allows attendees to get registered with federal, state and local agencies, find contracting opportunities, and build partnerships and network. Come visit our table and learn more about how you can get involved in the high-speed rail program, we would love to meet you.

We are also continuing forward with changes to our Business Advisory Council (BAC). We have added three new members to the BAC including Margaret Jackson of the Berryessa Business Association, Gene Hale of the Greater Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and Shaila Mistry of the National Association of Women Business Owners. Please feel free to check us out in May and stay tuned for more changes in the future.

Finally, I just want to wrap up with a recognition that May is Small Business Month, and my team and I want to thank all of the small businesses who have contributed to the high-speed rail program and that will do so in the future. We have nearly 700 certified small businesses involved on the high-speed rail program statewide to date, and we couldn't be prouder to partner with all of you as we move forward with the future of transportation in California.

- 1 & 2. In August 2021, one of our rare in-person events was in Sacramento at Small Business Day. The Authority had a table at this event and was glad to see such strong interest from participating small businesses.
3. As we gear up towards in-person events this year, we encourage you to come visit us as see some familiar faces, such as our Small Business Manager Damon Dorn, and meet some of our new people.
4. The Small Business team is looking forward to getting back to our face-to-face networking events, like this one we hosted in 2019 in Fresno for our Track and Systems procurement.



# Small Business Events

**May 19, 2022**  
**California High-Speed Rail Authority Board Meeting**  
 East End Complex,  
 1500 Capitol Avenue,  
 Sacramento, CA  
 Time: TBD

**May 25, 2022**  
**Business Advisory Council**  
 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
 Webcast Meeting Online

**June 16, 2022**  
**California High-Speed Rail Authority Board Meeting**  
 Opportunity to be in Fresno  
 Time: TBD

**August 17 & 18, 2022**  
**California High-Speed Rail Authority Board Meeting**  
 Time:TBD  
 Bay Area (specific site TBD)

**August 24, 2022**  
**Business Advisory Council**  
 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
 Webcast Meeting Online



**May 11, 2022**  
**Connecting Point Expo**  
**8:30 AM – 12:00 PM**  
**Scottish Rite Masonic Center**  
**6151 H Street**  
**Sacramento, CA 95819**

Connecting Point is an event for businesses seeking a connection with procurement officials, small business advocates and public agencies and utilities from across California. Attend this event to get registered with public agencies receiving contracting opportunities and to build partnerships. Learn how to receive valuable business assistance and attend workshops to learn more about the growth in the region. (Photo courtesy of Sacramento Public Agency Consortium)



**May 24, 2022**  
**How to Do Business with the State of California**  
**10:00 AM – 11:00 AM**  
**Online Workshop**

The **Northern California Procurement Technical Assistance Center (NorCal PTAC)** in collaboration with the **Department of General Services (DGS)** invite you to attend this webinar to learn how to pursue contract opportunities with California state government. Don't miss out on this webinar for businesses new to state contracting or those who want a refresher. You will learn the basics of state government contracting and get valuable information on how to get certified as a Small Business (SB) or Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) and begin selling your products and services to the state of California. This webinar will cover SB and DVBE certifications, Cal eProcure Registration, Finding Bid Solicitations, Contract Research, SB/DVBE Advocates, Commercially Useful Function (CUF) and Resources.

# Speedreads

## New FI\$Cal Purchase Order Payment History Search on Cal eProcure:

The Department of General Services (DGS) and FI\$Cal have collaborated to provide an exciting new public tool available for suppliers, bidders and subcontractors to review Purchase Order payment history. The goal of this new tool is to provide the following benefits:

Transparency:

- Public Information – purchase order and payment information accessible on Cal eProcure
- Suppliers/Subcontractors can track payment dates made by state departments to prime contractors and/or suppliers

Compliance:

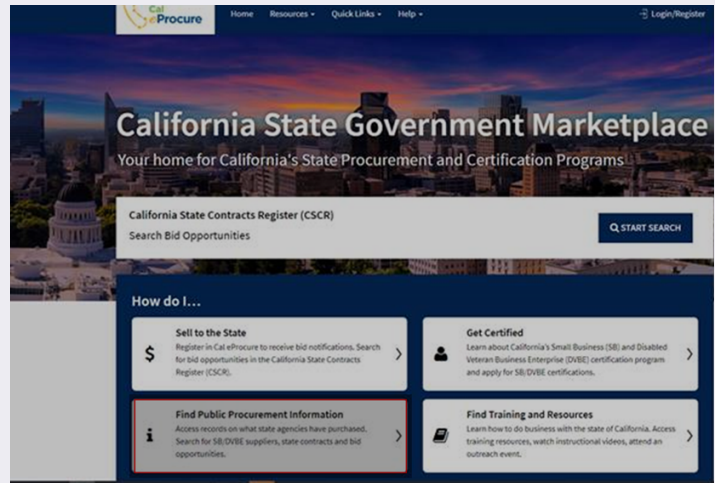
- Subcontractors have proof of payments from the department to a prime supplier
- Departments can track Purchase Orders to Payment History for Prompt Payment
- Small Businesses/Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises can review and track payments for Prompt Payment purposes

Customer Satisfaction:

- Assistance with timely and accountable payments
- Accessible on Cal eProcure, whenever needed
- Provides a summary and detailed report of all invoices and payments, as well as subcontracting information, in excel format

If you have any questions or concerns about the Purchase Order Payment History results information, please contact the appropriate department or buyer for assistance.

If you have any questions about the new tool functionality, please contact the FI\$Cal Service Center at (855)-347-2250 or [fiscalservicecenter@fiscal.ca.gov](mailto:fiscalservicecenter@fiscal.ca.gov) and you will be routed to the DGS FI\$Cal support team for assistance.



**Eurostar Relaunches Service to Disneyland Paris:** Though the pandemic has put our lives on hold, things are slowly returning—just like Eurostar's service to Disneyland Paris. Travelers can **once again travel to the happiest place on earth**, Disneyland Paris, in just 2 hours and 49 minutes on Eurostar. "We are excited to resume our direct Disney service this Friday, as we know how much families value being able to travel with ease and speed from the heart of London to the gates of Disneyland Paris," said Francois Le Doze, chief commercial officer with Eurostar. The train will operate four days a week and increase service as we approach the summer months. (Photo courtesy of Travel Daily Media)





**Japan's Shinkansen to Expand Service this Fall:** If you have been lucky enough to ride one of Japan's bullet trains—you don't want to travel any other way! Japan's West Kyushu Shinkansen bullet train recently announced they will be **expanding their service this Fall**. Effective September 23, the new route will consist of five stations along 41 miles between Takeo-Onsen Station in Saga Prefecture and Nagasaki Station in Nagasaki Prefecture. Riders can enjoy a quick 1 hour 20-minute ride from Hakata Station to Nagasaki Station. (Photo courtesy of PR Times)



**Toks Omishakin Appointed as Secretary of California State Transportation Agency:** Earlier this year, Governor Newsom appointed Toks Omishakin as **Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency**. Omishakin is no stranger to the transportation sector as he previously served as director of the California Department of Transportation. "As head of the largest and most complex transportation system in the nation, I'm confident that he'll continue to bring his forward-thinking leadership and dedication to serving the people of California," Newsom stated. "(Omishakin will) advance our ongoing work to build safer, healthier and more sustainable communities that serve all Californians." In his new role, Omishakin will oversee statewide transportation departments including Caltrans, the California Highway Patrol, the Department of Motor Vehicles and the California High-Speed Rail Authority. (Photo courtesy of California Governor Facebook)

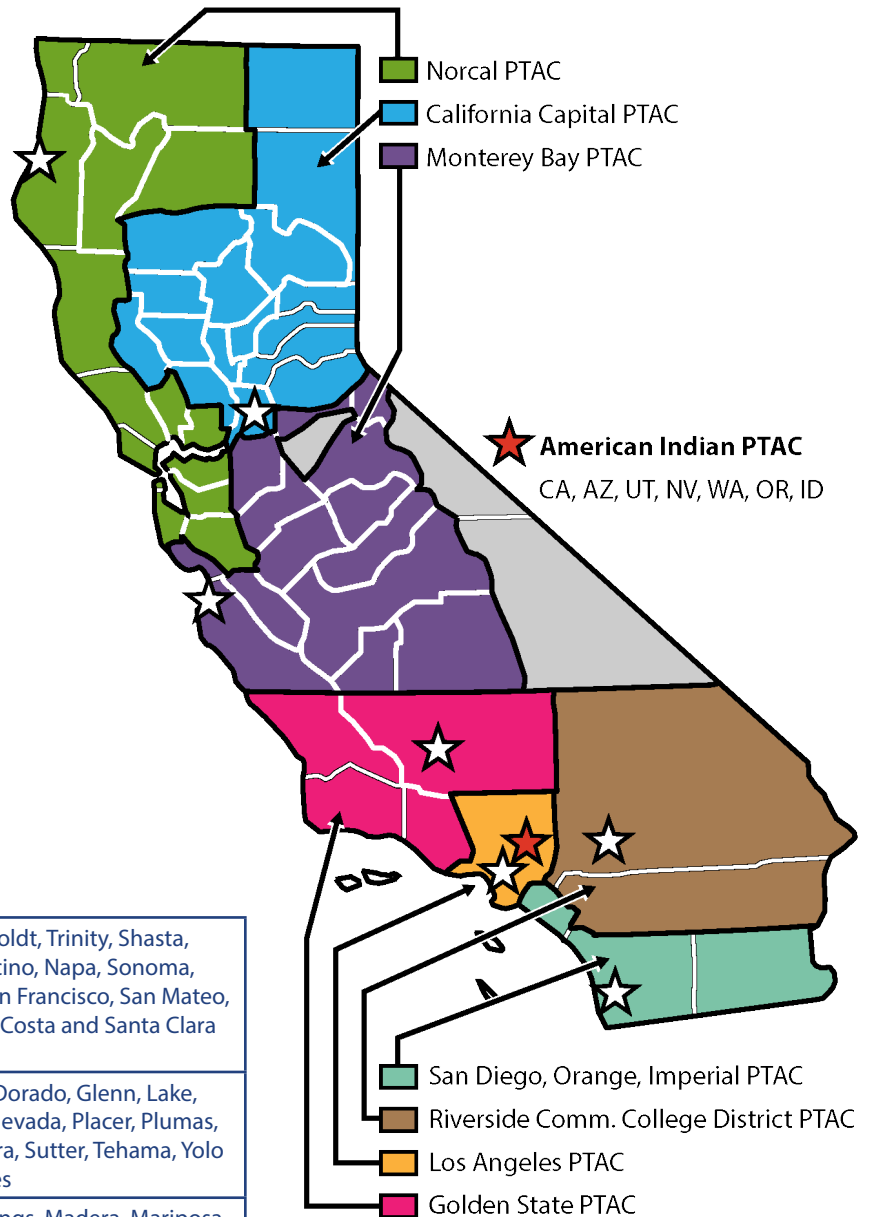
**Buttigieg Discusses High-Speed Rail for Texas:** In recent years, Texas has seen an increase of people moving to the lone state adding to the population, congestion and overall growth. U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg says high-growth areas like the ones we are seeing in Texas will need to take measures to pave more highway lanes. With the increase in traffic and congestion, Buttigieg noted that **Texas could benefit from a passenger rail**. "There's no reason that quality, speedy train service should only be something in the Northeast," Buttigieg said in an interview with The Texas Tribune. (Photo courtesy of Michael Brochstein/Sipa USA via REUTERS)



## Get Technical Assistance Through Your Local PTAC

The Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP) was authorized by Congress in 1985 to expand the number of businesses capable of participating in the government marketplace. Administered by the Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), the program provides matching funds through cooperative agreements with state and local governments and non-profit organizations for the establishment of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs) to provide procurement assistance.

PTACs come in many different sizes and shapes, reflecting the needs, priorities and resources of the areas they serve. Some PTACs are administered directly by state governments, others partner with universities, community colleges, local economic development corporations or other local institutions. In California, there are eight active PTACs staffed with counselors experienced in government contracting. They provide a wide range of services and easy access to bid opportunities, contract specifications, procurement histories and other information necessary to successfully compete for government contracts.



NorCal PTAC <a href="http://www.norcalptac.org">www.norcalptac.org</a>	Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, Shasta, Siskiyou, Mendocino, Napa, Sonoma, Marin, Solano, San Francisco, San Mateo, Alameda, Contra Costa and Santa Clara counties
California Capital PTAC <a href="http://www.cacapital.org/ptac">www.cacapital.org/ptac</a>	Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lake, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Sierra, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo and Yuba counties
Monterey Bay PTAC <a href="http://www.montereybayptac.com">www.montereybayptac.com</a>	Alpine, Fresno, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare and Tuolumne counties
Golden State PTAC <a href="http://www.goldenstateptac.com">www.goldenstateptac.com</a>	Kern, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura counties
Los Angeles PTAC <a href="http://www.dcba.lacounty.gov/ptac">www.dcba.lacounty.gov/ptac</a>	County of Los Angeles
Riverside Community College District PTAC <a href="http://www.rccdptac.com">www.rccdptac.com</a>	Riverside and San Bernardino counties
San Diego, Orange, Imperial PTAC <a href="http://www.ptac-sandiego.org">www.ptac-sandiego.org</a>	San Diego, Orange and Imperial counties
American Indian PTAC <a href="http://www.aicef-ptac.org">www.aicef-ptac.org</a>	Region (Pacific/Western/Northwest): CA, AZ, UT, NV, WA, OR and ID



# High-Speed Rail Moving Down the Track with Major Procurements

Going into the spring, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) released several major procurements to continue to move California's high-speed rail program forward.

- In February, the Authority issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to procure a **Program Delivery Support** contract with the purpose of entering into an agreement with a consultant to provide professional services to the Authority for support and technical expertise related to the delivery of the high-speed rail program. The current Rail Delivery Partner contract will transition the support of the high-speed rail program to the Program Delivery Support before the end of the year. The Authority hosted a virtual pre-bid conference and small business workshop on March 3 with over 200 attendees, and Statements of Qualifications are due on May 17.
- In March, the Authority issued RFQs for design services for the **Fresno to Bakersfield Locally Generated Alternative** and the **Merced to Madera** project sections. These RFQs would result in architectural and engineering consultant services to progress design to configuration footprint (minimum 30% design), value engineering, cost refinements, travel time enhancements, right-of-way mapping and utility relocation requirements. The Authority hosted a virtual pre-bid conference and small business workshop on March 29 with over 300 attendees. Statements of Qualifications are due on June 10 for the Fresno to Bakersfield Locally Generated Alternative RFQ and on May 26 for the Merced to Madera RFQ.
- Demonstrating further progress in the Central Valley, in May, the Authority issued an RFQ for design services to progress the four **Central Valley Stations** – Merced, Fresno, Kings-Tulare and Bakersfield - to commissioned facilities. The Authority will procure one designer for all four stations. The first Notice To Proceed (NTP 1) will progress design work for all four stations to configuration footprint and will include value engineering, cost refinements, materials and physical scope refinements, right-of-way confirmation, and utility relocation requirements. The Authority will host a virtual pre-bid conference and small business workshop on May 12, and statements of qualifications are due on July 19.

**QUESTIONS AND RESOURCES**

- Written questions regarding the procurement can be emailed to: [opportunitycenter@calhsr.ca.gov](mailto:opportunitycenter@calhsr.ca.gov)
- Answers to questions and any RFQ updates will be posted to Cal eProcure.
- Station Procurement Webpage:
  - Visit [https://calhsr.ca.gov/procurement-opportunities/contractors/bidders.html#station\\_procurement](https://calhsr.ca.gov/procurement-opportunities/contractors/bidders.html#station_procurement)
  - Can be found by going to:
    - Home
    - Select: Business Opportunities
    - Linked under: Contractors
- Registration list and PPT will be posted to the Webpage

**SB/DVBE Certification**  
California's Small Business (SB) and disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Certification Programs

Getting certified will give your business preferred status for government contracts and give you access to more contract opportunities.

Before you begin application for certification, be prepared to upload the following:

- Complete Federal Tax returns (last 3 years) for applicant firm and affiliates
- HSB verification of your firm's TIN (tax identification number)
- Quarterly Contribution Return & Report of Progress - Contribution Form DE-RC for firm and affiliates
- Award of Entitlement, Affirmative Service Benefit Verification, or Federal Reserve letter for DVBE
- For specific business practices you may be required to include other documents for a full list of documents:
  - Small Business Document Requirements
  - DVBE Document Requirements

**Updating UNSPSC Codes & Keywords**

- Update on Cal eProcure - <https://caleprocure.ca.gov/pages/index.aspx>
- Log-in to your profile
- Click your user name
- Click "View Certification Profile"
- Then click "Amend Application"
- Click "Save and Continue" on each page until you reach the "Other" tab

**California State Government Marketplace**  
Your home for California's State Procurement and Certification Programs

- Cal eProcure includes information for small businesses that are interested in applying to become certified to do business with the State of California
- Since 2019, the Authority has hosted several online pre-bid events for Authority contracts. Just in the first part of 2022, the Authority hosted pre-bids and small business events for four major RFQs ranging from high-speed rail support services to stations.
- In 2021, the Authority's Small Business Program held several virtual small business workshops with our state partners to get attendees up to speed on how they can utilize Cal eProcure to secure contracts.

# Studio Designs Inclusive High-Speed Rail Stations

# URBAN FIELD

"Our advantage is that we are small and flexible. We can form teams as needed, whether it's for a small task or for a longer process."

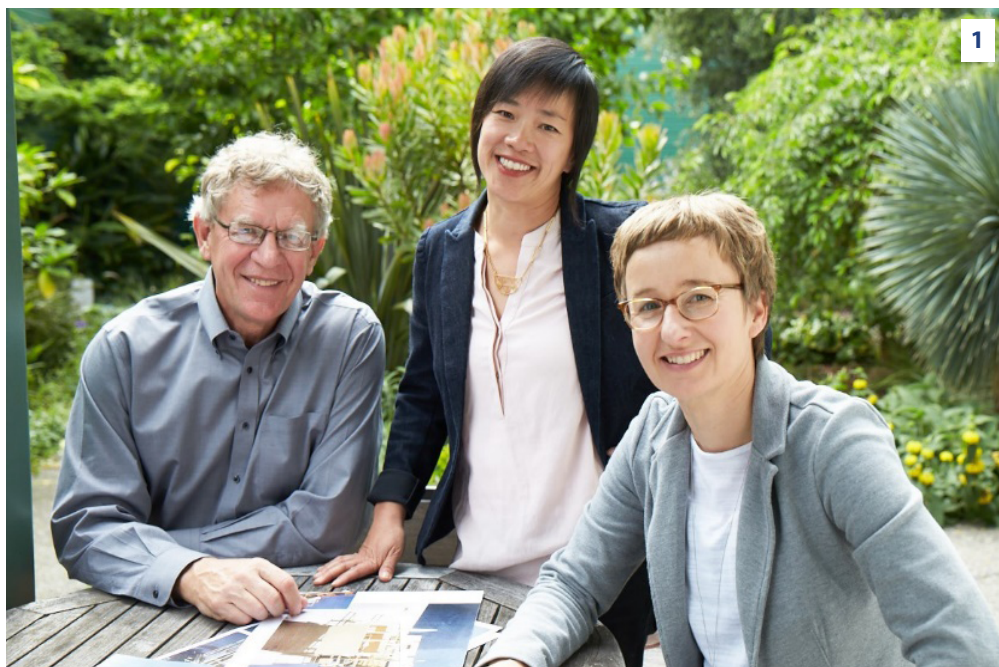
Heidi Sokolowsky  
Founding Partner  
Urban Field Studio

According to the 2020 census, 86% of Americans live in metropolitan areas. With so many people living in cities, urban design is essential to make most places better.

San Francisco-based urban design firm **Urban Field Studio** works with cities, government agencies and private clients to capture the greatest potential for a given location. The studio blends architecture, planning, economics, and environmental and social responsibility to design active urban places that people will treasure.

Before forming Urban Field Studio, Heidi Sokolowsky, Jane Lin and Frank Fuller were colleagues at another firm and worked on the Diridon Station Area Plan in San José, a future world-class transportation hub that will include electrified Caltrain, BART and high-speed rail service. Sokolowsky already had prior experience with high-speed rail station area planning in California and Germany.

In 2014, Sokolowsky and Lin saw an opportunity to create a design studio that would be much like a "field office" for urban design. They wanted to explore new ways to practice planning and experiment with ways



1. Frank Fuller, Jane Lin and Heidi Sokolowsky of Urban Field Studio work with cities, government agencies and private clients to help stations areas achieve their greatest potential for a given location.
2. The Urban Field Studio team helped to design this proposed high-speed rail station in Fresno at G Street.

to engage with the public. "We thought of ourselves as a collaborative, and we would go to people rather than them coming to us," Sokolowsky said. "Our advantage is that we are small and flexible. We can form teams as needed, whether it's for a small task or for a longer process."

The studio's initial projects included a wayfinding plan to improve the signage in Uptown Oakland near the 19th Street BART Station and a feasibility study for downtown Marysville. As Urban Field Studio blossomed—building an impressive portfolio of equitable and innovative projects—Frank

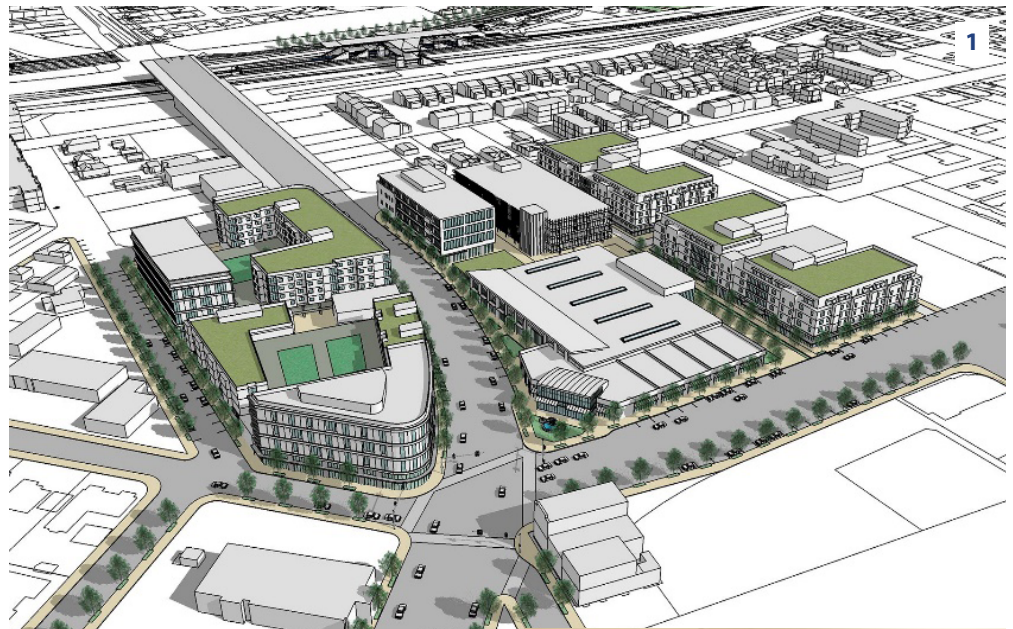
Fuller joined as a third partner. "We have been working together for a long time, and we have amazing synergy," Sokolowsky said, noting that everyone brings complementary skills to the group.

Urban Field Studio's expertise matched perfectly with the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) as it engaged in long-term planning for its train stations. The studio has collaborated with the Authority, other consultants and local partners to plan high-speed rail stations and revitalize communities in Fresno, Bakersfield and the Kings/Tulare region.

Sokolowsky and her team have played an integral role in preparing for Fresno's future station. "We have participated in many meetings with City staff and we want to make sure that our station area planning aligns with **the City's vision plan** and the functional needs of the station," Sokolowsky remarked. "It was also important for the Authority to think about early site activation." Well before the first trains arrive, the Authority plans to repurpose the historic depot and the area in front of it for temporary uses. "We are working with community groups to develop a program and design, so people have a reason to come to the site and learn about high-speed rail," she said.

"Urban design is sometimes hard to define, and it touches a lot of other disciplines, like architecture and transportation planning," Sokolowsky said. The studio builds relationships that shape high-speed rail stations while enabling communities to thrive. In her words, "We look at the big picture and try to bring everyone to the table to build consensus. We help envision the station as a place that welcomes and connects people and can adapt to the future."

Anthony Lopez



1. The Urban Field Studio team worked on the Fremont Irvington BART Station Area Development Guidelines.
2. Urban Field Studio developed the early concept ideas for the Isabel BART Station Area in Livermore.
- 3 & 4. Staff from Urban Field Studio participated in Downtown Santa Clara Community Workshops to help explain their design concepts to the public.
5. Urban Field Studio created San José Urban Villages Site Development Concepts that present walkable, bicycle-friendly, transit-oriented, mixed-use settings.

# JMA Civil's Freight Relocation Projects Advance HSR Construction, Opens Other Doors



“Governor Brown’s decision to require 30% small business participation on the Authority’s program was the big breakthrough for us!”

Jon Marshall  
Principal Engineer and CEO  
JMA Civil



JMA Principal Engineer and CEO Jon Marshall, center, in red blazer, with husband and JMA President Ethan Hartsell, right of Jon, celebrate the firm’s 10-year anniversary in June of 2021 with staff at Brix Restaurant & Garden in Napa.

Starting any new business has its challenges. When Jon Marshall and his husband Ethan Hartsell joined forces to start **JMA Civil** in 2011, hiring qualified civil engineers and winning work proved especially tricky from the get-go.

Still, they pressed their way forward.

“We overcame the second challenge through perseverance,” said Hartsell, JMA’s president, who first crossed paths with Marshall, JMA’s Principal Engineer and CEO, in 2004. “Mostly, we recruit the best and brightest candidates we can find from back east.”

It took five years for the duo to build up their budding engineering, design and consulting firm’s body of work before the tide shifted and they got on bigger jobs.

Today, JMA, a certified Microbusiness (MB) based out of Oakland, works on California’s high-speed rail project designing temporary detours known as “shooflies,” enabling freight rail lines to be relocated while high-speed rail structures are built. They ensure major freight railroads adjacent to high-speed rail continue carrying trains on time and without service disruptions. Once the new structures are complete, the freight rails move back to their original locations.

Many of JMA’s designs have been constructed, including its first shoofly in Downtown Fresno as part of Construction Package (CP) 1.

Marshall and JMA Senior Civil Engineer, Mohammed Abushaban, were honored to be present for the first Union Pacific Railroad train to operate on the newly constructed shoofly in February, a major construction milestone.

“Our BSNF shoofly for Poso Avenue is almost complete as well,” said Marshall, noting that remaining shooflies should be constructed over the next year or two. “Ultimately, JMA has designed all five shooflies undertaken to date for the Merced to Bakersfield segment.”

JMA also designed a relocation of a major fiber optic line serving Bakersfield. Constructed in 2020, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) counts it as one of its major achievements on the Central Valley segment to date.

In designing the shooflies for Union Pacific Railroad and the San Joaquin Valley Railroad in Fresno, the firm has a subcontract with CP 1 design-build contractor Tutor Perini/Zachry/Parsons (TPZP). They also have a subcontract with CP 4 design-build contractor California Rail Builders (CRB) to design a temporary line for BNSF Railway in Wasco. The combined

subcontract amounts exceed \$2.1 million.

JMA has grown significantly since 2014, tripling in size since starting on high-speed rail and taking on more complex and multi-disciplinary projects.

Marshall now leads a team of 20, ranging from engineers to operational and support staff. The firm grew about 30% over the last two years alone.

“The pandemic changed our work life completely as we went from having several small offices to just one, with our staff all working remotely,” Marshall said. “Fortunately, our industry has also seen continued growth during the pandemic due to the state’s focus and leadership in investing in public transit and transportation generally.”

JMA’s experience with high-speed rail has helped it secure spots on teams for other transit agency programs, including Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit and Caltrain.

Marshall was also recently selected as the Rail Design Lead for Planning and Engineering on **Link21** with the Arup/WSP team.

JMA has also completed nearly 40 projects for educational and government campus facilities, including UC Berkeley, as the firm recently com-

pleted plans – as prime designer – for a new bridge jointly managed by UC Berkeley. It connects the city with the Lawrence Hall of Science.

Prior to establishing JMA, Marshall worked for over a decade as a project manager and design lead for a national transportation firm, contributing to scores of public and private rail and transportation infrastructure projects. Marshall immigrated to California from his native Canada in 1997 to utilize his university training with Sanitary, Storm and Flood Model Software for a significant flood control project in North San Jose. Hartsell, an accountant by trade, managed a high-technology contract manufacturing company for a decade.

As an LGBT-owned firm, Hartsell noted that JMA is not recognized by the Federal Small Business Administration for meeting Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) requirements – meaning the firm previously lost out securing spots on teams until the weight of its experience overcame the disadvantage of not helping the large prime firms meet DBE equity goals.

“Governor Brown’s decision to require 30% small business participation on the Authority’s program was the big breakthrough for us!” Marshall said of **the Authority’s big goals for small business participation.**

“It’s fantastic for LGBT and other SBE but non-DBE firms, while not taking anything away from all of the great DBE firms,” he said.

Marshall and Hartsell are proud of the firm’s role in seeing high-speed rail construction through.

“We are excited and committed to seeing the high-speed train network built,” Marshall said, noting his and his husband’s stake as Bay Area residents with close family in the Central Valley. “We need this program to succeed to connect us in a powerful, convenient, environmentally sustainable way.”

Micah Flores

1. Construction Package 1, a 32-mile stretch between Madera to Fresno, was the first significant construction contract executed for the high-speed rail program. This package includes 12 grade separations, two viaducts, one tunnel, a major river crossing, and the realignment of State Route 99.
2. JMA is the engineer of record for the Tutor/Perini/Zachry/Parsons (TPZP) joint venture for the design of the three shooflies of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) mainline in Fresno at locations in Downtown, the Westside Wye and West Herndon Avenue. These 3 shooflies, totaling over 14,000 feet of new track, will enable the construction of four underpasses of UPRR required to establish the high-speed train alignment adjacent to UPRR through Fresno.
3. Supporting the design-build contractor, California Rail Builders, JMA has led the design of two adjacent shooflies of BNSF mainline for Construction Package 4 in Wasco.
4. At the 2019 general session of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association (AREMA), JMA Principal Engineer and CEO Jon Marshall co-presented with Michael Keating of BNSF and Antonio Canete of California Rail Builders the strategy for addressing the challenging technical considerations associated with the shooflies and the team’s collaborative approach that achieved BNSF approvals in under 24 months, from alternatives analysis to structure and shoofly 100% approvals.



# Hoisting High-Speed Rail Into Place



“It’s gratifying to see our products being used on the high-speed rail project. It’s great to know we are playing a part of making history.”

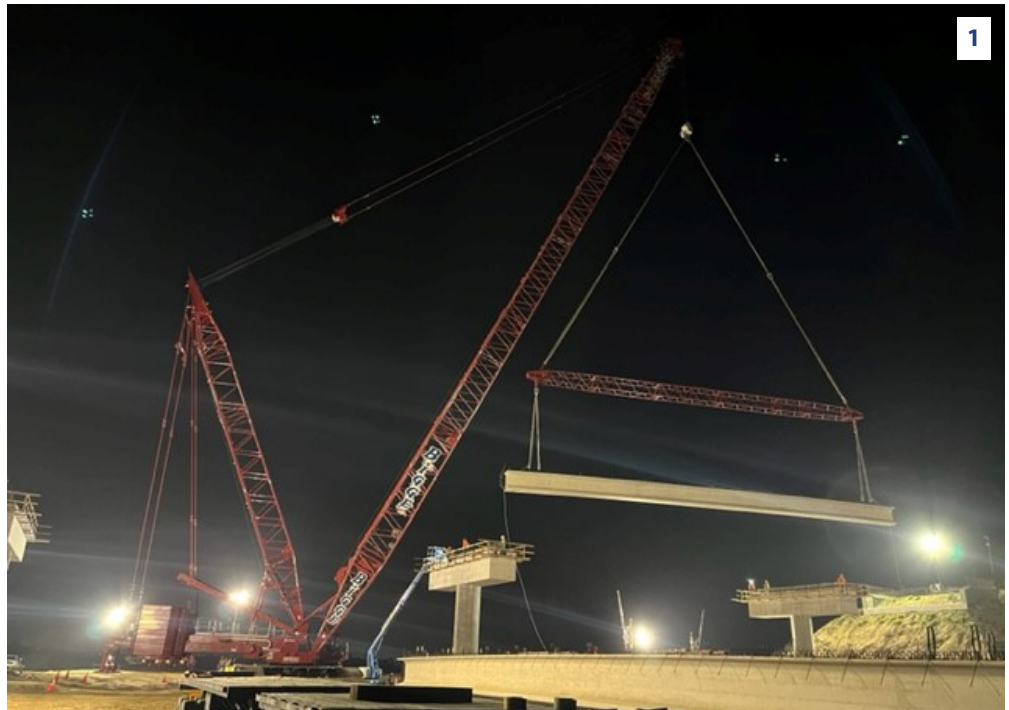
Steve Currier  
Owner and President  
Contech Hoist & Rigging

Working on the nation’s first high-speed rail project can be a heavy load to bear. For Contec Hoist and Rigging (Contec), it’s just another day in the shop and another challenge worth solving.

Contec has been providing wire rope and rigging needs to the Central Valley since 1981. Owner and president Steve Currier describes his shop as an, “Industrial hardware store, selling anything a crane needs to lift a load.”

Talk about a niche market, but Currier insists that if you walk around his shop you’ll see something familiar. He was hired as a laborer in 1990 where he learned how to fabricate slings and process orders for the former owner. Throughout the years, he worked his way up to management. Finally in 2003, he bought the shop and now operates it alongside his wife.

Contec began providing services to Construction Package 1 (CP 1) design-build contractor Tutor-Perini / Zachry / Parsons (TPZP) in 2016. One of their first big jobs was to provide crane slings to help lift the more



1. Contec Hoist and Rigging products in use helping place girders at the Avenue 15 ½ Grade Separation in Madera County.



2. Contec Hoist and Rigging provided the lifting slings needed to place girders at the San Joaquin River Viaduct and Pergola.

3. Pre-cast concrete girders are lifted using lifting slinks connected to shackles.

than 198 pre-cast concrete girders for the San Joaquin River Viaduct and Pergola in Fresno. Contec provided several different options to TPZP to help lift and set the girders from different directions and multiple angles.

In CP 1, Contec also provides fall protection equipment, including harnesses and safety lanyards for crew members for use on the construction site. Carrier will even come on out to provide safety and rigging training if needed.

“As soon as we heard that the [high-speed rail] project was happening, obviously we went for it to try and be the local supplier for these products,” said Currier. “The size of the rigging and scope of this project is massive; it’s allowed our business to expand our capabilities and product knowledge.”

Now, Contec has expanded services providing slings to CP 2-3 contractor Dragados-Flatiron Joint Venture. His products can be seen across the 65-mile project section, but most notably at the Conejo Viaduct and Pergola in Fresno County where crews are currently setting 248 pre-cast concrete girders on nights and weekends. Each girder can span nearly 124 feet long and can weigh more than 150,000 pounds.

Currier joked that since the start of the high-speed rail project, other rigging shops have come to the Central Valley for a piece of the action. However, he says there’s two things that sets them apart from the rest.

The first being its certification and testing abilities. Contec has the only test bed between Stockton and Bakersfield to proof test rigging up to 175,000 pounds. This allows Contec to remain competitive and save time by testing rigging in house instead of sending it out of town or state for certification.

Second, it’s about service.

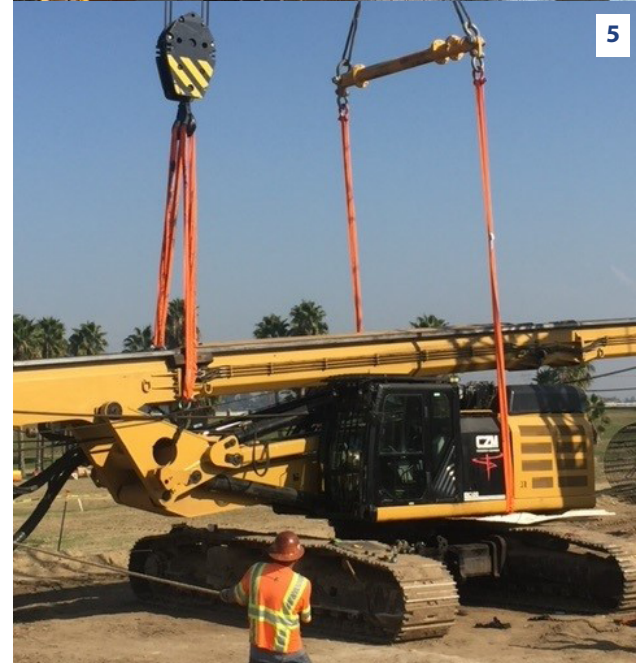
“What it comes down to is more than the product, it’s about the relationships. We want to take care of our customers and give them good service and products so they know they can count on us in the future,” added Currier.

Currier says he and his seven-person shop take pride in the products they manufacture.

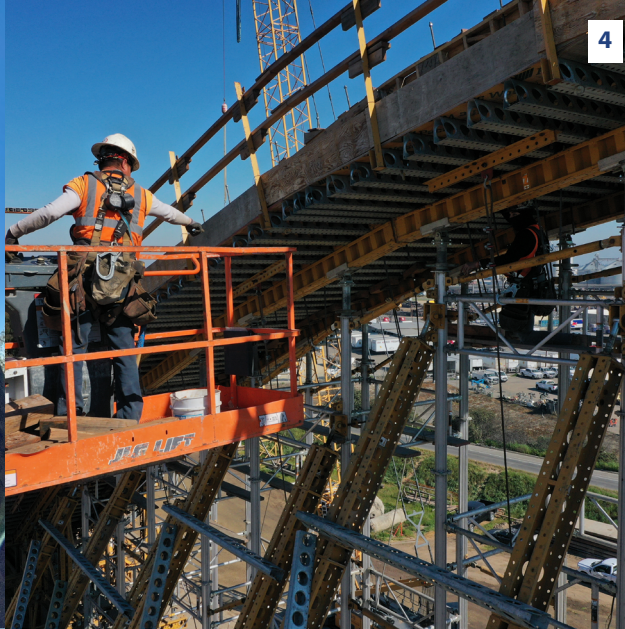
“It’s gratifying to see our products being used on the high-speed rail project. It’s great to know we are playing a part of making history.”

Augie Blancas

4. A lifting sling is connected to a pre-cast girder that will be placed on top of the pergola section of the Conejo Viaduct.
5. Two lifting slings are used to help lift and repair a piece of machinery.
6. President and CEO Steve Currier stands next to a spool of wire rope.



# High-Speed Rail Happenings at the Cedar Viaduct



1. The Cedar Viaduct is under construction over State Route 99 in south Fresno.
2. Crews are working on the arches of the Cedar Viaduct. More than 225 cubic yards of concrete have been placed to form three of the four arches that span over State Route 99. The fourth and final arch will be placed later this spring.
3. Laborer Luis Varvay stands on top of one of the Cedar Viaduct's four distinctive arches.
4. A worker takes a closer look at the work on the structure's arches. To the south of Cedar Viaduct, embankment continues to be hauled and mechanically-stabilized earth (MSE) walls continue to go up bringing the Cedar Viaduct and structure at Muscat Avenue together.
5. Jose Parga, a cement mason, poses on the Cedar Viaduct on the day of a cement pour to form the structure's arches.
6. A wide view shows the magnitude of the Cedar Viaduct over State Route 99. When complete, the Cedar Viaduct will span nearly 3,700 feet long and will carry high-speed trains over State Route 99, North and Cedar avenues.





# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

## SPRING 2022

**LATEST VIDEOS:** [WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CAHIGHSPEDRAIL](http://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CAHIGHSPEDRAIL)



## Spring 2022 Construction Update

The California High-Speed Rail Authority's Spring 2022 Construction Update highlights the progress being made in the Central Valley. With continued winter construction progress, highlights include the recent completion of the South Avenue Grade Separation in Fresno County, updates on the Cedar Viaduct's dual span of arches and installation of pre-cast concrete girders at the Conejo Viaduct.

Check out the full video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAZqaESaZLg&t=1s>



### Interested in doing business with High-Speed Rail?

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[www.ConnectHSR.com](http://www.ConnectHSR.com)



### SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION AS OF FEBRUARY 2022

**699** Certified Small Businesses  
working on the high-speed  
rail program statewide

**225** Certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises  
**79** Certified Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA:**  
**230** Certified  
Small  
Businesses

**CENTRAL VALLEY:**  
**196** Certified  
Small  
Businesses

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:**  
**221** Certified  
Small  
Businesses

**OUTSIDE OF CALIFORNIA:**  
**19** Certified  
Small  
Businesses