



California High-Speed Rail **BRIEFING: June 29, 2023, Board Meeting** **Agenda Item #6**

TO: Chairman Richards and Board Members

FROM: Melissa Figueroa, Chief of Strategic Communications

DATE: February 29, 2024

RE: Informational Briefing Trainset Interiors

Summary

In preparation of the upcoming trainset procurement process, the Authority in coordination with the Early Train Operator (ETO) has developed a design vision and functional requirements for the interior of the future high-speed trains. To ensure an equitable and inclusive onboard experience, a passenger-centric approach was utilized to collect comprehensive feedback from a diverse group of stakeholders and potential riders across California. The purpose of this briefing is to update the Board of Directors on the progress on the trainset interior design since the last briefing in June 2023, including results of stakeholder engagement and next steps.

Background

As part of trainset procurement, the Authority will have to determine the interior layout of the trains, including, but not limited to, seats per train, safety and ADA requirements, passenger amenities, color and design, human health and environmental quality of materials, and other details required during the upcoming Trainset procurement. The Authority is using the Early Train Operator contract to advise on this effort and help conduct stakeholder outreach and coordination, in addition the ETO is tasked with creating mockups for the public of possible train design layouts.

Discussion

Since the previous board briefing in June of 2023, the Authority has made substantial progress on its vision for the future train interiors. The documentation of the layout and interior design concepts that comprise the vision will be finalized in the coming weeks and is on track to be integrated into the Request for Proposal package for the trainset procurement. The concepts are the result of an expert-led and community-driven process that incorporated outreach and engagement at every step. This process included interviews, workshops, and research to direct the development of initial concepts. It also involved gathering public and stakeholder feedback on early concepts using interactive activity

boards, concept sketches, and social media, virtual reality tours at conferences and events throughout the state, and focus groups with multilingual communities in the Bay Area, Central Valley, and Southern California. "A "white mockup" - a 1:1 scale basic mockup of select interiors concepts made of plywood - was an integral part of testing the ergonomics, accessibility, and functionality of the interiors and involving key stakeholders in the design process. Groups and organizations that have visited the white mockup at CalEXPO in Sacramento to provide valuable feedback include but are not limited to students from several universities, focus groups of potential riders, disability rights advocates, passenger association representatives, California state agencies, labor stakeholders, safety and regulatory experts, and the Federal Railroad Association. Incorporating input from a broad range of perspectives led to a design vision that puts equitable access and inclusion of all passengers first and ensures a future service that is safe, reliable, sustainable, and iconic to the State of California. In 2024, the Authority will showcase the train interior design vision in the context of the overall project in an exhibit at the California State Fair and plan the construction of a high-fidelity mockup that provides a preview of the future onboard experience for further public outreach and awareness.

Discussion

This information item provides an update to the Board on the High-Speed Rail Authority's progress on the interior trainset design.

Legal Approval

The Legal Office has reviewed, and this item complies with Authority policy.

Budget and Fiscal Impact

This is an informational item, and by itself, does not have a budget or fiscal impact.

REVIEWER INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
Reviewer Name and Title: Brian Annis Chief Financial Officer	Signature verifying budget analysis: Signed 2/22/2024
Reviewer Name and Title: Alicia Fowler Chief Counsel	Signature verifying legal analysis: Signed 2/22/2024

Recommendations

This item is informational only, and there are no recommended actions at this time.

Attachments

PowerPoint Presentation