

SIGNATURE/APPROVAL SHEET

TO: Bill Casey

FROM: Mathias Prakesch

SUBJECT: Approval of 2024 Business Plan 50-Year Lifecycle Capital Cost Model Documentation

DESCRIPTION OF ENCLOSED DOCUMENT(S): 2024 Business Plan 50-Year Lifecycle Capital Cost Model Documentation

California High-Speed Rail Authority *2024 Business Plan Technical Supporting Document*

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Tables

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The California High-Speed Rail Authority System

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is responsible for planning, designing, building and operating the first high-speed rail system in the nation. High-speed rail will connect culturally and economically diverse communities, contribute to economic development and increase job growth and mobility—all in an environmentally sustainable manner. With the completion of Phase 1, the system will run from San Francisco to the Los Angeles basin in under three hours at speeds capable of over 200 miles per hour. The system will eventually extend to Sacramento and San Diego, totaling 800 miles with up to 24 stations.

1.2 Background

In 2019, there was a transition in responsibility from the Rail Planning and Delivery Group to Operations for select supporting documents of the Business Plan. As a result, the Early Train Operator (ETO) has assumed the responsibility of updating the 50-Year Lifecycle Capital Cost Model for the subsequent Business Plans and Project Update Reports. The team reviewed the methodology, service assumptions, and consulted with subject matter experts to compile and review the capital expenditure inputs and technical data to run the 50-Year Lifecycle Capital Cost Model. Furthermore, the team reviewed and updated the model framework to show the lifecycle costs for both system phases (Silicon Valley to Central Valley and Phase 1), as described in the sections that follow.

2 PURPOSE OF THE MODEL

This Technical Supporting Document outlines the definition, methodologies, inputs and assumptions used for the model. The purpose of the model is to develop an estimate that forecasts the 50-year lifecycle costs for the infrastructure and assets of California's high-speed rail system. The model presents the lifecycle costs in two ways:

- Constant dollars—Estimates are provided in June 2023 dollars.
- Year-of-expenditure (YOE) dollars—Estimates can be inflated to YOE dollars, using 2023 dollars as a baseline and construction cost indices as documented in the 2024 Business Plan Capital Cost Basis of Estimate Report*.*

2.1 Model Framework

The team used the framework from the previous lifecycle cost methodology to make refinements to the model. The team developed a refined approach to the cost model, creating an agile model capable of reflecting changes in rehabilitation and replacement assumptions quickly. Even so, the model remains consistent, using a framework based on a similar process produced by maintenance, renewal and improvement of rail transport infrastructure to reduce economic and environmental impacts (MAINLINE), which is part of the European Union-funded research program on a variety of topics, to analyze lifecycle cost estimates. MAINLINE's methodology is documented in Proposed Methodology for a Life Cycle Assessment Tool and aims to capture all costs involved throughout the life of an asset: construction, operation, maintenance and end-of-life. As previously mentioned, operation and maintenance costs are modeled/forecasted in the Operations and Maintenance Cost Model Documentation and only added as a total sum in the framework of the model.

2.1.1 Track Cost

The International Union of Railways (UIC) International Benchmarking of Track Cost compares track costs between different projects. UIC conducted a benchmarking exercise using 12 Western-European, 5 US-Class I and 4 selected East-Asian Railways. The main objectives of the exercise were to compare the cost of investment and maintenance and identify and analyze individual cost drivers. The results of the benchmarking exercise include:

- Major track and catenary renewal are as expensive as new construction of track and catenary.
- Slab track and subgrade works are important cost-drivers for track.
- Slab track has lower maintenance cost, but due to special roadbed and civil engineering, the impact of its cost is more pronounced than superstructure cost alone.
- Renewal costs from the study participants are broken down as follows:
	- Overhead: 15%
	- \blacksquare Labor: 12%
	- Material: 22%
	- **Machinery: 3%**
	- **Miscellaneous: 2%**
	- Contractors (External): 46%

However, the Lifecycle Capital Cost Model does not break out costs into these categories.

2.1.2 Asset Lifecycles

Lifecycle estimates align with best practices where guidance is available. UIC and the European Investment Bank (EIB) provide the following guidance for the maintenance of high-speed line components in Table 1. Asset lifecycles were subsequently adjusted based on industry expertise in the United Kingdom. Certain assets such as tunnels have a 100 year design-life, and thus are not subject to lifecycle activity during the model's 50-year forecast period.

Table 1 Lifecycle Requirements Comparison

Notes:

1 Higher Reliability, Availability, Maintainability and Safety targets are being applied to California's greenfield application, combined with relatively light usage of the track structure, ties and ballast is anticipated to lead to useful lifecycles beyond those found in older European systems.

2 Ballast is assumed to have two rehabilitation cycles (i.e., mid-life cleanings) instead of one (the first cycle starting at year 16 of the asset's lifecycle and the second starting at year 33), helping extend the anticipated lifecycle to 50 years.

3 The overhead contact system is assumed to have an indefinite lifecycle because continuously replaced as part of maintenance activities.

4 Rehabilitation for signaling systems is assumed to occur every 15 years and includes uninterruptable power supply battery replacement and commercial off-the-shelf and other hardware replacement. Since component parts are replaced often (as reflected in the rehabilitation portion of the Communications and Signaling estimates), the entire system can be maintained in place for a longer period.

3 UPDATES TO THE MODEL SINCE THE 2018 BUSINESS PLAN

3.1 Forecasting and Costing Methodology for the Lifecycle Capital Cost Model

Lifecycle costing methodology used in the 2024 Business Plan compiles all expenditures that the Authority will incur in the system over the lifespan of 50 years, including initial capital investments, operations, maintenance and specific costs to rehabilitating and replacing those investments over the 50 year timespan. The ETO team applied this definition to update the methodology behind the 2020 Lifecycle Capital Cost Model and has used it since then.

In the 2018 Lifecycle Capital Cost Model, the methodology was based on providing a "cash flow" representation and estimate of the cash out required for rehabilitation and replacement for a timespan of 30 years.

The new 50-year lifecycle cost estimation includes a consolidated expenditures view by year, including the operations and maintenance costs in addition to the rehabilitating and replacement expenditures. See [Figure 1](#page-11-3) below:

Figure 1 Steps in Lifecycle Capital Cost Model

3.2 Updated Service Plan Assumptions

Assumptions were made for the model run to reflect the current alignment and phasing assumptions of the project, as documented in the 2024 Business Plan*.* The planned alignment stretches from San Francisco to Anaheim once Phase 1 begins. In the 2024 cost model all 3 building blocks, namely the interim Central Valley service, Silicon Valley to Central Valley increment, and Phase 1 increment are modeled phases. An incremental approach was used in our model to be able to react flexibly to changes in the timeline. Previously, Silicon Valley to Central Valley and Phase 1 were the phases modeled.

Table 2 Station Scenarios for Silicon Valley to Central Valley and Phase 1

Notes:

1 Environmentally cleared and funded by others.

3.3 Fleet Size Assumptions

Fleet size numbers were adjusted to reflect new service assumptions in the 2024 Business Plan and to match those used in the operations and maintenance (O&M) cost forecast for the 2024 Business Plan. More information on fleet size numbers can be found in Section [7.9.](#page-31-1)

4 GENERAL ASSUMPTIONS

The following assumptions were derived from the previous 2018 Lifecycle Capital Cost Model, and new assumptions were made where applicable for the updates across the entire model:

- 1. Assets were analyzed at the second level of the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) standard cost categories (referred to as "asset classes") for capital projects/programs.
- 2. The rehabilitation and replacement costs of these new second-level categories are calculated independently then added together to generate the original second-level rehabilitation and replacement costs.
- 3. Each asset class has an initial capital cost associated with a phase (Silicon Valley to Central Valley/Phase 1)
- 4. California High-Speed Rail asset classes and initial capital costs were pulled directly from the capital cost model for the 2024 Business Plan*.* Initial capital costs were provided at the second level, matching asset class lifecycle assumptions which are also at the second level.
- 5. The base year for model cost estimates is 2023; meaning real costs are reported in 2023 dollars.
- 6. Model outputs are designed to reflect both real (year 2023) and nominal (year of expenditure) dollars. Costs in nominal dollars will increase (or decrease) from costs in real dollars depending on the variable inflation rate, assigned by the model user. If the inflation rate is set to zero, then the real and nominal costs will be the same.
- 7. Capital costs are assumed to include all labor, materials and contractor costs associated with the asset's construction and subsequent rehabilitation or replacement.
- 8. Assets are procured as close as possible to specifications.
- 9. The O&M cost model estimates are designed to allow for all costs necessary to maintain a state of good repair through adequate preventive maintenance. Thus, the capital rehabilitation and replacement model assumes that preventive maintenance will occur on schedule, so the effects of deferred maintenance are not considered.
- 10. Rehabilitation and replacement costs are assumed to be spread over one or more years (this is a model input). Rehabilitation and replacement "spread" refers to the number of years over which rehabilitation and replacement costs are incurred. The spread is designed to allow for rehabilitation and replacement programs that last more than one year.
- 11. Rehabilitation and replacement costs are cyclical and spread evenly before and after the target year for odd-numbered spreads. For even-numbered spreads that cannot be split in half to be before and after the target year, the spread is weighted backwards (e.g., two years before target year, one year after for a four-year spread). In some cases, the spread is irregular and is entered as a row input (see #17 below).
- 12. Rehabilitation and replacement cycles will not overlap (i.e., if an asset is being replaced in a given time period, then rehabilitation will not occur in that time period).
- 13. Rehabilitation and replacement costs are reported as a percentage of the initial capital cost of an asset class (whether for all components of an asset class or individual components, depending on the initial capital cost estimate format per asset category). This was done to reflect only the portions of assets that will be rehabilitated or replaced throughout the 50-year timeframe, unless otherwise noted.
- 14. Model inputs are based on industry standards and experience of existing systems when applicable; sources were documented accordingly.
- 15. Rehabilitation and replacement inputs are reported using the two approaches below:
- 16. For rehabilitation and replacement costs that follow a standard, cyclical pattern, costs are entered directly into the input sheet. For example, when an asset is replaced every 20 years, and costs are spread over 3 years.
- 17. For rehabilitation and replacement costs that do not follow a standard, cyclical or consistent pattern, costs are entered as row inputs, as a percentage of the initial capital cost. For example, when an asset is rehabilitated in year 10 with a spread of 2 years, and again in year 25 with a spread of 4 years.
- 18. Asset classes/categories are entered by year of the asset's operation. Year one is represented one year after start of operations.
- 19. The evaluation period refers to the 50-year timeframe.
- 20. An unallocated contingency of 5 percent has been applied to each second-level asset category. The total unallocated contingency for all second-level asset categories is included as a separate first-level cost category ("90 Unallocated Contingency").
- 21. Allocated contingency (11 to 31 percent based on the capital cost model) has also been applied to each second-level asset category and is included in each second-level category's cost estimate. For a list of allocated contingency rates applied to lifecycle costs, please see Section [7.11.2.](#page-34-2)
- 22. An allowance for professional services of 10 percent of total costs has been applied to the following asset cost categories: 10 Track and Track Structures; 20 Stations, Terminals, Intermodal; 30 Support Facilities, Yards, Shops and Administration Buildings; and 40 Sitework, Right-of-Way, Land and Existing Improvements, and 20 percent of total costs has been applied to 50 Communications and Signaling and 60 Electric Traction.^{[1](#page-14-0)} Professional services costs are not applicable to 70 Vehicles. The total professional services costs for all second level asset categories are included as a separate first-level cost category (80 Professional Services). For a breakdown of the components of the professional services, see Section [7.10](#page-33-0) of this Technical Supporting Document.

The following sections describe in detail the assumptions and estimation methods for each asset category of the high-speed rail system.

¹ No costs were included for category 40 Sitework, Right-of-Way, Land and Existing Improvements, since rehabilitation and replacement are not anticipated during the 50-year timeframe. However, the 10 percent allowance for professional services was still applied to this category in the event the lifecycle information is updated.

5 INITIAL CAPITAL COSTS

Categories and initial capital investments costs used in this model are coming from the Authority's Detailed Capital Cost Budget, divided in 2 stages: Silicon Valley to Central Valley and Phase 1. For the purposes of evaluation, the lifecycle costs of the Central Valley interim stage are consolidated within the Silicon Valley to Central Valley stage. The team can run future iterations (if required) with the Central Valley Lifecycle costs independently.

6 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE COSTS

The associated expenditures come from the Operations and Maintenance Costs Model Documentation Technical Supporting Document. The O&M costs were also divided in two stages: Silicon Valley to Central Valley and Phase 1. For the purposes of this evaluation, the lifecycle cost of the Central Valley is consolidated within the Silicon Valley to Central Valley stage. The ETO team can run future iterations (if required) with the Central Valley lifecycle costs independently.

7 REHABILITATION AND REPLACEMENT COSTS METHODOLOGY

The same methodology used in the 2018 Business Plan was applied for the 2024 Rehabilitation and Replacement Cost Model; however, the assumptions were reviewed and instead of separating by segment, the initial capital costs were separated by stage (Silicon Valley to Central Valley and Phase 1) to show the incremental change.

This methodology does not include an accrual-based method, where the cost of rehabilitating and replacing the asset would be distributed evenly across its lifespan. Instead, in consultation with the Authority, it is assumed that the Authority will have the means to cover the costs for rehabilitation and replacement in the year in which it occurs (including the years of spread according to the assumptions listed in the asset category sections below).

The timeline for the cost model was set at 50 years. Costs occurring after 50 years were not considered for this exercise, neither were the costs of decommissioning system parts after the end of their lifecycle. This approach differs from the 2018 Lifecycle Capital Cost Model, which forecasted costs until 2060 (30 years).

7.1 Allocated Contingency Rate Assumptions

For the purpose of the 2024 Business Plan, the same allocated contingency rates for rehabilitation and replacement activities and previous contingency rates used for the initial capital cost estimates were used in the model to maintain a conservative approach. The allocated contingency rates can be found in Section [7.11.2.](#page-34-2)

7.2 Other Model Components and Input Assumptions

All other model components and assumptions were found to be in line with current industry best practices and the current status and design scope of the California High-Speed Rail System, as verified by industry subject matter experts. To maintain a conservative approach in line with the previous iteration of the 2018 Business Plan, the following model components were kept in the 2024 Business Plan:

- Rehabilitation spread (number of years over which rehabilitation costs are spread)
- Replacement cycle
- Replacement cost (reported as a percentage of the initial capital cost)
- Replacement spread (number of years over which replacement costs are spread)

The inputs and assumptions for this base scenario were compiled based on assets' design lives, international and domestic experience with the rehabilitation and replacement of the specific system components, and industry best practices with regard to asset management. Please reference the sections below for more information on the assumptions made for each of the asset categories.

7.3 Track Structures and Track

Since the 2018 Business Plan, for category 10 assets, there has been an update to the assumptions. Previously, there was not an assumption for the cost category 10.16, Track: Switch Heaters (with power and control). In the 2024 Business Plan, the capital expenditure figures were updated by the Authority assuming a total allocated cost of \$20,366,742 for Silicon Valley to Central Valley increment, and no additional cost for Phase 1 increment (for cost line item 10.16). To be consistent with the other capital cost budget line-item categories, we assumed the same rehabilitation and replacement assumptions as cost category 10.14, Track: Special track work (switches, turnouts, insulated joints) and updated in the [Table 3](#page-16-2) below. Additionally, there was not previously an assumption for 10.04 Track Structure: Culverts and drainage structures; therefore, the same assumptions for asset category 10.05-10.07 for track structures was applied (70-year rehabilitation and 100-year replacement interval).

Industry subject matter experts reviewed each of the rehabilitation and replacement assumptions previously used for the 2018 Business Plan and found them to be consistent with current industry best practices.

7.3.1 Model Input Assumptions

Table 3 Track Structures and Track Inputs

7.4 Stations, Terminals, Intermodal

No assumptions or asset class structures have changed since the 2018 Business Plan for category 20 assets.

Industry subject matter experts reviewed each of the rehabilitation and replacement assumptions previously used for the 2018 Business Plan and found them to be consistent with current industry best practices.

7.4.1 Assumptions and Model Inputs

Table 4 Stations, Terminals, Intermodal Inputs

2024 Business Plan: 50-Year Lifecycle Capital Cost Model Documentation 16 | Page

7.5 Facilities, Yards, Shops and Administration Buildings

No assumptions or asset class structures have changed since the 2018 Business Plan for category 30 assets.

Industry subject matter experts reviewed each of the rehabilitation and replacement assumptions previously used for the 2018 Business Plan and found them to be consistent with current industry best practices.

7.5.1 Assumptions and Model Inputs

Table 5 Support Facilities, Yards, Shops and Administration Buildings Inputs

7.6 Sitework, Right-of-Way, Land and Existing Improvements

No assumptions have changed since the 2018 Business Plan, as category 40 assets are not rehabilitated or replaced during the 50-year timeframe.

7.6.1 Assumptions and Model Inputs

There are no assumptions for asset class 40: Sitework, Right of Way, Land and Existing Improvements listed in the 2018 50-Year Lifecycle Capital Cost Model Documentation that transfer into our Lifecycle Capital Cost Model. In the detailed Capital Cost Budget, the Authority only considers the following two items:

- 40.05 Site Structure Including Retaining Walls, Sound Walls
- 40.08 Highway/Pedestrian Overpass/Grade Separation

Assets in 40.05 Site Structure Including Retaining Walls, Sound Walls are designed for 100 years, and no rehabilitation or replacement is anticipated during the 50-year timeframe. It is assumed that inspections and repairs are a part of O&M costs. These assumptions are consistent with the 2018 50-Year Lifecycle Capital Cost Model Documentation.

40.08 Highway/Pedestrian Overpass/Grade Separation falls under the assumption that cost categories 40.01 – 40.04 and 40.06 – 40.09 have been excluded since they are not applicable to capital rehabilitation and replacement, consistent with the 2018 50-Year Lifecycle Capital Cost Model Documentation.

7.7 Communications and Signaling

Since the 2018 Business Plan, for category 50 assets, there has been an update to the assumptions. Previously, there was no estimate for the cost category 50.03, On-board Signaling Equipment. In the 2024 Business Plan, the capital expenditure figures were updated by the Authority assuming a total allocated cost of \$1,051,988 for Phase 1 (for cost line item 50.03). To be consistent with the other capital cost budget line-item categories, we assumed the same rehabilitation and replacement assumptions as cost category 50.04, Traffic Control and Dispatching Systems and updated in the [Table 6](#page-28-3) below.

Industry subject matter experts reviewed each of the rehabilitation and replacement assumptions previously used for the 2018 Business Plan and found them to be consistent with current industry best practices.

7.7.1 Assumptions and Model Inputs

Table 6 Communications and Signaling Inputs

7.8 Electric Traction

No assumptions or asset class structures have changed since the 2018 Business Plan for category 60 assets.

Industry subject matter experts reviewed each of the rehabilitation and replacement assumptions previously used for the 2018 Business Plan and found them to be consistent with current industry best practices.

7.8.1 Assumptions and Model Inputs

Table 7 Electric Traction Inputs

7.9 Vehicles

No assumptions or asset class structures have changed since the 2018 Business Plan for category 70 assets.

Industry subject matter experts reviewed each of the rehabilitation and replacement assumptions previously used for the 2018 Business Plan and found them to be consistent with current industry best practices.

7.9.1 Assumptions and Model Inputs

Table 8 Vehicle Inputs

7.9.2 Assumption Changes Since the 2018 Business Plan

- Each trainset costs \$52,000,000 (in 2017 dollars) in the 2018 Business Plan.
- Each trainset costs \$54,366,325 (in 2019 dollars) in the 2020 Business Plan.
- Each trainset costs \$44,679,947 (in 2023 dollars) in the 2024 Business Plan.
- The 2018 Business Plan introduced mid-life overhauls for each trainset, which will occur every 15 years and will cost 75 percent of the initial capital cost of each train set; these assumptions remain in the 2024 Business Plan.

7.9.3 Unit Quantities

The following unit quantities apply to 70.02 Vehicle Acquisition: Electric multiple unit*:*

- 17 sets for Silicon Valley to Central Valley line (San Francisco to Bakersfield)
- 58 total sets for Phase 1 (San Francisco to Anaheim)

Table 9 outlines the number of trainsets per group.

Table 9 Potential Rolling Stock Delivery Schedule

7.10 Professional Services

Category 80 Professional Services includes all professional, technical and management services related to the design and construction of infrastructure (categories 10-60) during the preliminary engineering, final design and construction phases of the project/program (as applicable). These services include environmental work, design, engineering and architectural services, specialty services such as safety or security analyses, value engineering, risk assessment, cost estimating, scheduling, ridership modeling and analyses, auditing, legal services, administration and management, etc., by agency staff or outside consultants.[2](#page-33-3)

[Table 10](#page-33-2) shows the professional cost allowances as percentages of construction costs, adjusted from category 80 in the capital cost model to reflect only those costs that would be relevant for capital rehabilitation and replacement. The percentages assumed in the 2024 Business Plan are consistent with those assumed in the 2018 Business Plan.

Table 10 Professional Services Cost Allowances for Categories 10, 20, 30 and 40

² As defined by the FRA Standard Cost Categories for Capital Projects: [https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grant-programs/capital](https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grant-programs/capital-investments/core-capacity-scc-workbook)[investments/core-capacity-scc-workbook.](https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grant-programs/capital-investments/core-capacity-scc-workbook) However, not all of these categories would apply to the rehabilitation or replacement of assets.

Notes:

1 Only applicable to categories 10-40. Final design for categories 50-60 is 20 percent, 15 percent for system engineering and 5 percent for integration, testing and commissioning.

2 The total professional services allocation for categories 50-60 is 26 percent.

Final design for categories 50 and 60 is assumed to be 20 percent consisting of 15 percent for system engineering and 5 percent for integration, testing and commissioning. A higher amount of integration and coordination is needed for high-tech components of the California High-Speed Rail System. These are consistent with inputs for the capital cost model.

7.11 Contingency

The model contains two sets of contingencies: (1) unallocated contingency to account for unknowns that may arise in the rehabilitation and replacement of system assets; and (2) allocated contingency to account for known risks, uncertainties and unknowns associated with individual cost categories.

7.11.1 Unallocated Contingency

Unallocated contingency was set at 5 percent of costs before contingency. This is the same as the unallocated contingency applied in the capital cost estimates and the operations and maintenance cost estimates and is designed to account for unknowns that cannot be anticipated.

7.11.2 Allocated Contingency

Allocated contingency percentages ranging from 11 percent to 31 percent were applied to account for unknowns, risk and uncertainties specific to each asset category. The range for allocated contingencies mirrors the percentages applied to the capital cost estimate in the 2018 Business Plan*.* The allocated contingency percentages are presented in [Table 11.](#page-34-3) Stations and support facilities were given allocated contingency rates of 20 percent to 21 percent to reflect the current level of design (these rates will be revisited once stations and support facilities are at a higher level of design definition).^{[3](#page-34-4)}

³ Rolling stock allocated contingencies are included in the initial capital cost estimate for each vehicle.

7.11.3 Monte Carlo Risk Analysis

Monte Carlo simulations are part of a broad class of computational algorithms that rely on repeated random sampling to determine the range of possible outcomes along with the probability of different cost, schedule, revenue or other outcomes. Monte Carlo simulations are used in a variety of ways for the California High-Speed Rail Program to determine possible cost, schedule or revenue outcomes when uncertainty and risk are incorporated into the underlying models.

For the lifecycle cost risk analysis, the Authority employed Monte Carlo simulations as part of a top-down or "Reference-Class" analysis. "Risk" here is defined simply as variance from planned or expected costs. While reference class analysis cannot provide the granularity of a traditional bottom-up approach that is most useful from an internal management standpoint, the results of the reference-class analysis are based on actual project outcomes and are not dependent on the quality or comprehensiveness of internal risk identification or assessment efforts. In a top-down analysis, the algorithm works much the same way and is used for the same purposes, but instead of individual schedule activities or costs, it uses actual outcomes from similar projects to determine the probability of certain outcomes, for example, that a particular revenue projection will be met or costs will be below a certain target.

The results of a traditional or bottom-up risk analysis approach are typically captured in a risk register. As recommended in Department of Transportation Inspector General guidance and elsewhere, the risk register is eminently useful for systematizing and documenting the identification, assessment and mitigation of individual risks. For this reason, it is a key tool in California High-Speed Rail System risk management efforts as described in the Authority's Risk Management Plan. The risk register and underlying bottom-up approach does, however, have potentially significant limitations with regard to the accurate quantification of risk exposure, which also contributes to the decision to use a top-down approach. Chief of these is that the degree to which such an effort captures the actual risk exposure is dependent on the ability of participants to comprehensively identify and then accurately quantify the impact of said risks.

To a greater or lesser extent, a bottom-up analysis is also affected by certain modeling decisions such as correlation between individual risks—the actualization of some affects the likelihood and impact of others, sometimes making them more likely and/or expensive, sometimes less. For the vast majority of project risks, there is no objective means for determining the appropriate correlation factor. Additionally, to be complete, this methodology also requires a determination of the dollar value of any identified schedule impacts, which in turn requires a significant amount of foresight regarding not just what risks may strike a project but also when. The extent to which these activities are carried out by project personnel and/or stakeholders also introduces the potential for optimism bias. For Business Plan/Project Update Report purposes, as opposed to internal tracking and risk management purposes, the key objective of the risk analysis was and is to develop an accurate, objective measure of the risk exposure as measured by the potential variance between actual (eventual) and estimated costs together with the probability of a given variance. Given the relative weaknesses of a bottom-up approach for such a determination, this risk analysis employs a reference-class methodology to quantify the risk exposure associated with Lifecycle costs.

In reference-class analysis, the algorithm is given a set of outcomes from other, similar projects and then uses these in a Monte Carlo simulation to, in a sense, work backwards to determine a probability distribution that would lead to the given set of outcomes. From this resulting distribution, we can determine how likely a outcome is for this project based on the outcomes of other similar projects. This is akin to asking a number of people who live in your town how long it takes them to drive to another town. From this sample, you could develop a general idea of what's a reasonable amount of time to allot for your trip and what is not. The Monte Carlo simulation simply allows for much more specific predictions, e.g., there is a 75 percent chance that your trip will take between 41 and 57 minutes or there is a 2 percent chance that your trip will take longer than 80 minutes.

Unlike the reference-class analysis done for O&M costs, there were no direct cases comparing projected versus actual lifecycle costs on high-speed rail systems from which to derive risk exposure curves since many systems have not reached the ends of their assets' useful lives and where they have, the assets are not always comparable. To develop a risk exposure curve for lifecycle costs, the Authority first developed distributions believed to bracket the area describing lifecycle cost risk exposure. Three risk exposure curves were developed for this purpose:

1. The O&M curve, based on six reference cases comparing planned versus actual costs, as a percentage.

- 2. Rail capital expenditure curve without outliers, based on 54 of an original 58 rail projects with the two best and two worst cases excluded from the data set.^{[4](#page-37-0)}
- 3. Rail capital expenditure curve with outliers, based on 58 rail projects.

The determination of the O&M and both rail capital expenditure risk curves employed the actual project outcomes in Monte Carlo simulations to develop probabilistic estimates of cost under- or overruns, and the results were normalized for comparison with one another. Using these three curves, the ultimate specification of an appropriate lifecycle cost risk exposure curve was based on three premises:

- 1. There is greater risk/uncertainty in lifecycle cost than in O&M due to lack of data on high-speed rail systems, larger time interval between when costs are estimated and when they are realized and because current lifecycle costs are largely based on current capital cost estimates.
- 2. There is a less risk/uncertainty in lifecycle costs than that indicated by rail capital expenditure risk curves and underlying project outcomes, because the largest drivers of cost overruns in capital expenditure (e.g., time to achieve political consensus, acquisition of right-of-way, stakeholder issues) are largely or completely resolved by the time lifecycle costs are realized.
- 3. While underlying work is essentially a series of capital expenditures, the risk profile and parameterization more closely match that of O&M.

The resulting lifecycle risk exposure curve has the same risk profile as O&M but exhibits higher normalized costs at every confidence level than O&M (see [Figure 2\)](#page-38-0). Conversely, at confidence levels of approximately 8 percent or higher, the rail capital cost estimate risk exposure is greater and significantly greater at confidence levels above 20 percent, than lifecycle. In percentage terms, it is anticipated that there will be greater variance between estimated and actual lifecycle costs than there will be for O&M, but significantly less than that indicated by rail capital expenditure reference cases. For comparison, the median (50th percentile) results for O&M, lifecycle, rail capital cost estimate without outliers and rail capital cost estimate were 1.038, 1.094, 1.407 and 1.450, indicating median cost overruns of 3.8 percent, 9.4 percent, 40.7 percent and 45 percent, respectively.

⁴ These cases were collected and presented in Megaprojects and Risk: An Anatomy of Ambition by Bent Flyvbjerg, Nils Bruzelius and Werner Rothengatter, 2003 by Cambridge University Press.

The resulting parameterization for the lifecycle cost risk exposure was:

- Minimum: 0.70*lifecycle with contingency or 70 percent of lifecycle cost estimate with contingency.
- Most Likely: Lifecycle cost estimate with contingency +10.7 percent.
- Maximum: Medium cost scenario with contingency + 41.28 percent.

For comparison, the equivalent parameters, in percentage terms, applied to the medium O&M cost with contingency were 86%/+0%/+34% (Min/ML/Max). Consistent with the premises outlined above, there is greater risk of actual lifecycle costs exceeding estimates than actual O&M costs exceeding estimates. Graphically, this is indicated by the normalized lifecycle cost curve being greater (above) the normalized O&M curve at every confidence level. Also, consistent with the premises outlined above, both exhibit much less variance than the capital expenditure cases.

This exposure curve, applied to the individual estimates by year and phase, served as the input to Monte Carlo simulation(s). Individual simulations were run for each year of each phase, San Francisco to Bakersfield and Phase 1 increment as well as for each year of "All" (combined San Francisco to Bakersfield and Phase 1 increment), based on the risk-adjusted cost estimates for those years and phases. Note that for analysis of "All," estimates for San Francisco to Bakersfield and Phase 1 Increment were summed first, and then parameterization and Monte Carlo analysis were applied to this total.

The analysis purposefully avoids statistical correlation from year-to-year for the following two reasons:

- Rehabilitation and replacement costs will eventually be assumed through several individual procurement contracts that are not correlated with each other. Application of, for example, a yearto-year correlation, would suggest that these contracts have some fixed relationship to one another of greater or lesser strength. While there may be some exogenous factors that would affect all the individual contracts making up the total lifecycle cost in the same way, other factors are likely to affect different components in different ways. As a result, individual contracts making up total lifecycle costs may exhibit negative correlation with one another at some times, positive correlation with others or at different times, or no correlation at all. Absent a supportable and quantifiable relationship between the individual components, application of such a relationship to the overall lifecycle costs could not be justified.
- In an event that any rehabilitation or replacement costs must be deferred, it would be possible for one year of total lifecycle costs to be lower than expected (the year of deferral) and the following year to be higher than expected (when deferrals may need to be addressed). In this case, the correlation would be negative. However, without any deferral, lifecycle costs may also exhibit positive correlation. For example, if rehabbing an elevator proved higher than anticipated in general, it would likely be equally as high in year 1 of its rehab as year 2. In the absence of clear correlation, it was determined to avoid year-to-year correlation overall.

8 CLOSING REMARKS

The team ran the model to obtain different lifecycle cost views: Cumulative through 2060 (in 2023 dollars and YOE), cumulative through 2082 (in 2023 dollars and YOE).

- [Table 12](#page-40-1) shows the cumulative 50-year rehabilitation and replacement costs (including professional services, allocated contingency, unallocated contingency and risk contingency) view for Silicon Valley to Central Valley Line in 2023 dollars
- [Table 13](#page-40-2) shows the cumulative 50-year rehabilitation and replacement costs (including professional services, allocated contingency, unallocated contingency and risk contingency) view for Phase 1 increment in 2023 dollars
- [Table 14](#page-41-0) shows the cumulative 50-year rehabilitation and replacement costs (including professional services, allocated contingency, unallocated contingency and risk contingency) view for Silicon Valley to Central Valley Line through Phase 1 in 2023 dollars.
- [Table 15](#page-41-1) shows the cumulative 50-year rehabilitation and replacement costs (including professional services, allocated contingency, unallocated contingency and risk contingency) view for Silicon Valley to Central Valley Line in YOE dollars.
- [Table 16](#page-41-2) shows the cumulative 50-year rehabilitation and replacement costs (including professional services, allocated contingency, unallocated contingency and risk contingency) view for Phase 1 increment in YOE dollars.
- [Table 17](#page-41-3) shows the cumulative 50-year rehabilitation and replacement costs (including professional services, allocated contingency, unallocated contingency and risk contingency) view for Silicon Valley to Central Valley Line through Phase 1 increment in YOE dollars.
- [Table 18](#page-41-4) shows the cumulative 50-year O&M costs view for Silicon Valley to Central Valley Line in 2023 dollars.
- [Table 19](#page-42-0) shows the cumulative 50-year O&M costs view for Phase 1 Increment in 2023 dollars.
- [Table 20](#page-42-1) shows the cumulative 50-year O&M costs view for Silicon Valley to Central Valley Line through Phase 1 in 2023 dollars.
- [Table 21](#page-42-2) shows the cumulative 50-year O&M costs view for Silicon Valley to Central Valley Line in YOE dollars.
- [Table 22](#page-42-3) shows the cumulative 50-year O&M costs view for Phase 1 increment in YOE dollars.
- [Table 23](#page-42-4) shows the cumulative 50-year O&M costs view for Silicon Valley to Central Valley Line through Phase 1 in YOE dollars.

Each of the tables presents a high, medium and low lifecycle cost forecast, following the top-down Monte Carlo simulation approach described in Section 7.

Table 12 Cumulative Rehabilitation and Replacement Costs: Silicon Valley to Central Valley Line (in millions of 2023 dollars)

Table 13 Cumulative Rehabilitation and Replacement Costs: Phase 1 Increment (in millions of 2023 dollars)

Table 14 Cumulative Rehabilitation and Replacement Costs: Silicon Valley to Central Valley Line Through Phase 1 (in millions of dollars)

Table 15 Cumulative Rehabilitation and Replacement Costs: Silicon Valley to Central Valley Line (in millions of YOE dollars)

Table 16 Cumulative Rehabilitation and Replacement Costs: Phase 1 Increment (in millions of YOE dollars)

Table 17 Cumulative Rehabilitation and Replacement Costs: Silicon Valley to Central Valley Line Through Phase 1 (in millions of YOE dollars)

Table 18 Cumulative Operations and Maintenance Costs: Silicon Valley to Central Valley Line (in millions of dollars)

Table 19 Cumulative Operations and Maintenance Costs: Phase 1 Increment (in millions of dollars)

Table 20 Cumulative Operations and Maintenance Costs: Phase 1 Increment (in millions of dollars)

Table 21 Cumulative Operations and Maintenance Costs: Silicon Valley to Central Valley Line (in millions of YOE dollars)

Table 22 Cumulative Operations and Maintenance Costs: Phase 1 Increment (in millions of YOE dollars)

Table 23 Cumulative Operations and Maintenance Costs: Silicon Valley to Central Valley Line Through Phase 1 (in millions of YOE dollars)

In a future iteration of the Business Plan or the Project Update Report, the ETO foresees a complete redesign of the Lifecycle Capital Cost Model, capable of presenting the costs in both accrual and cashflow views. In a future update, the team would like to do extensive research on the international assumptions for capital asset replacement and rehabilitation lifespans from similar scale high-speed rail projects. Furthermore, the team sees a potential to reconsider the approach regarding the Monte Carlo risk analysis. Rather than continue the top-down approach, the team would like to present the findings of implementing a bottom-up approach, which would allow for simulations run on each cost variable. Finally, the team recommends extending the lifecycle cost estimate from 50 years to over 100 years to capture several asset categories that have replacement cycles further out than the 50 years.