



April 4, 2012

High Speed Rail

“Mismanagement,” “abject failure,” “bait and switch,” “it was not what was promised,” “it’s too costly” and a “train to nowhere.” These are terms that are in reference to one issue paid for by taxpayers - High Speed Rail. Sources of some of these terms are the Reason Foundation, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and the Legislative Analyst’s Office.

As I read articles and listen to local talk radio segments on this “project” one thing is clear to me. This boondoggle must end. We need to throw the brakes on this project before it goes completely off the rails. The whole project is riddled with problems that include huge, escalating increases in the original cost estimates and changes in the project, mid-stream. I am concerned by attempts to sell the project by stating that it could use conventional rail systems when true high speed rail requires dedicated tracks with highly technical components not found on conventional rail systems.

Seemingly it would appear the project is plagued with incompetence. What’s worse is those in charge of the project seem deaf to the calls to stop and reassess the direction of the project. This single issue illustrates why citizens are discontented with our state government. No private-sector business plan would be cobbled together like this. A study done by the Institute of Transportation, University of California, Berkeley have said projected estimates of ridership were over-estimated. If this project was submitted as a private-sector business plan it wouldn’t have penciled out to begin with.

What is most concerning is the Governor wants us, taxpayers, to borrow the money to pay for the exorbitant project and pay it back with interest, all when the state is hundreds of billions of dollars in debt.

Polls indicate voters would say “No” to this project if voted on today. I say “not one cent more!” Our legislators have an obligation to the taxpayers to use our taxes wisely. We expect those who represent us to act in our interest. It is our duty as citizens to take action when our leaders fail to serve our interests. This failed project is a call for action.

There is an opportunity to stop this boondoggle. Senator LaMalfa, R-Richvale has proposed SB985. This bill would stop issuance of bonds, defunding the project. It would take the High Speed Rail project back to the voters to decide. We must tell our State Senators and Assembly Members to support Senator LaMalfa’s bill SB985.

We must prioritize our limited resources – fixing our crumbling highways, bridges, and water systems, revamping how we fund our education systems, addressing the problems associated with AB109, State Realignment. Moving prisoners from state prison facilities to overcrowded county jails is creating upticks in crime in our communities.

These issues and others like them compel me to run as a candidate to represent the eighteen communities in the new 48th Assembly District. The state must be held accountable in how our tax dollars are spent. I will do this using a conservative approach, knowing when to spend and when to save.

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Republican for Assembly District 48

Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bassett, Bradbury, Charter Oak,
Citrus, Covina, Duarte, East Arcadia, El Monte,
Glendora, Industry, Irwindale, Monrovia, Ramona,
Royal Oaks, Valinda, West Covina

I will be one who will represent our district for the greater interest of all of us. I will be a good steward of the taxpayer's money.