



# News Release

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## **Railroad Museum to Debut All-New Exhibit Titled *Fast Tracks: The World of High-Speed Rail* on November 20** *Exhibit Offers Interactive High-Speed Train Simulator Experience*

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – The California State Railroad Museum is proud to debut an all-new, interactive exhibit titled *Fast Tracks: The World of High-Speed Rail* on Friday, November 20, 2015. The centerpiece of the exhibit is a high-speed train simulator with interactive controls and a digital projector that will allow museum guests to simulate the experience of piloting a modern high-speed train. Museum guests will also have the unique opportunity to board a life-size mockup of a high-speed train to experience the point-of-view of a passenger and learn more about the technology that makes it happen. In addition, the exhibit will include interactive maps that show high-speed rail throughout the world, video elements, and models and representations of differing approaches to high-speed rail design.

The new exhibit is aimed at helping museum visitors gain a better understanding of the history of high-speed rail throughout the world, and explores the following themes:

- **The Pursuit of Speed:** From its beginnings in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, railroad technology was developed to move people and goods quickly and efficiently. The breathtaking speeds of today's high-speed rail would have been unimaginable by the builders and dreamers who originally developed rail networks across the world in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- **A Leap of Speed:** The world's first high-speed rail system opened in Japan in 1964, with specially-built "Shinkansen" trains running between Tokyo and Osaka at a top speed of 130 mph. European countries, plus Great Britain and the U.S. were next to develop high-speed rail corridors, followed in more recent years by South Korea, China, Taiwan and Turkey.
- **What Makes it High-Speed:** High-speed rail uses an integrated system of specialized rolling stock (rail vehicles) running on dedicated tracks, with a "blended" approach sometimes enabling HSR trains to reach city centers on tracks shared with other trains. It uses steel wheels running on steel rails – with electricity delivered via overhead wires for power – to operate significantly faster than traditional rail traffic.

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- **Here and There, But Not Everywhere:** High-speed rail systems generally operate in areas of relatively high population density. Traffic congestion and environmental concerns are among the factors that influence where High-Speed Rail corridors are planned and built.

The *Fast Tracks: The World of High-Speed Rail* exhibit is made possible by generous and involved partners that include the California State Railroad Museum Foundation, JR East (East Japan Railway Company) and Siemens.

The “Fast Tracks” exhibit will remain on display at least through December 2016. Railroad Museum admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for youths (ages 6-17), and children ages five and under are free. More information about the California State Railroad Museum is available at 916-323-9280 or [www.csrmf.org](http://www.csrmf.org).

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