I affirm the resolution: Resolved: The United States Federal Government should substantially increase its investment in high-speed rail.

Definitions:

High speed rail:

It can be loosely defined as trains operating at speeds of at least 125 mph, with the fastest modern trains reaching speeds of about 220 mph. <https://www.hsrail.org/what-high-speed-rail> I’ll cut the card later at home

## AFF CONTENTIONS:

Economic stimulation

Environmental benefits

What is High-Speed Rail?

<https://www.hsrail.org/what-high-speed-rail>

(High Speed rail alliance 22).

“There is no fixed definition of high speed rail. It can be loosely defined as trains operating at speeds of at least 125 mph, with the fastest modern trains reaching speeds of about 220 mph. HSR is also defined by dedicated tracks and separated grade crossings, which dramatically reduce delays. And HSR is almost always part of a network of conventional and commuter trains, as well as transit systems. When all of these pieces are tightly coordinated and working in harmony, HSR creates a paradigm shift in travel options.

**High-speed rail is a proven technology, with operating networks in over 20 countries.**  We can draw upon those experiences to build networks that meet our needs.

High-speed trains are a lot like regular trains, with steel wheels traveling over steel rails, b**ut they use dedicated high-speed tracks and specialized train equipment to go really fast.** Today's fastest trains regularly travel at 220 mph. (A French test train reached 357 mph, the current record.)

Because they use the same basic technology trains have used for more than 200 years, high-speed trains can take advantage of our existing railroad network. Just as a car journey starts on a regular road then moves to an interstate highway, high-speed trains can travel seamlessly over both new high-speed tracks and slower tracks shared with freight trains.”

24,000 Jobs, Congestion, x8 energy efficient

American Public Transportation Association, xx-xx-xxxx, "Benefits of High-Speed Rail for the United States,"<https://www.apta.com/research-technical-resources/high-speed-passenger-rail/benefits-of-high-speed-rail-for-the-united-states/>

“Creates Jobs:

Building high-speed rail will create hundreds of thousands of jobs.  Every $1 billion in investment creates 24,000 jobs. These are highly skilled jobs that will revitalize the domestic rail industries supplying transportation products and services. Many additional jobs are created through the commerce fostered through the economic activity and development which they spark.

Increases Economic Activity:

Every $1 invested creates $4 in economic benefits. Upgrading passenger operations on newly revitalized tracks, bridges and rights of way is spurring business productivity along corridors.  The rail services will connect America’s economically vital mega-regions and help keep them mobile, productive, efficient and internationally competitive.

Reduces Congestion and Boosts Productivity:

Congestion on our nation’s roads costs $140 billion in lost time and productivity.  The U.S. population is projected to grow by another 100 million people in the next 40 years. The population growth is creating mega-regions that will not prosper unless they can be freed from the stranglehold of highway and airport congestion. At the same time, the United States cannot build enough highway capacity or airport runways to meet demand.

Reduces the Nation’s Dependence on Foreign Oil:

Implementing high-speed rail will keep billions of dollars in the U.S. economy by decreasing the amount of oil that the U.S. consumes.    According to the International Association of Railways (UIC), high-speed rail is eight times more energy efficient than airplanes and four times more efficient than automobile use. It will also decrease greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality.”

High-Speed Passenger Rail

American Public Transportation Association, 12-4-2019, "High-Speed Passenger Rail," <https://www.apta.com/research-technical-resources/high-speed-passenger-rail/>

“Investing in environmentally friendly and energy-efficient high-speed rail projects will create highly skilled jobs in the transportation industry, revitalize domestic industries supplying transportation products and services, reduce the nation’s dependency on foreign oil, mitigate congestion, and provide travel choices.”

APTA 2015 High Speed Rail In America Survey

<https://www.apta.com/wp-content/uploads/Resources/resources/reportsandpublications/Documents/APTA-2015-High-Speed-Train-Survey.pdf>

(Technometrica, 2015)

“ If the current study is any indication, a majority of Americans wish for the implementation of high-speed rail service throughout the nation. Nearly two-thirds of Americans (63%) report that they are likely to use high-speed train service for business or leisure travel, if such a mode of transportation were available to them today. • Looking at the data more closely, over one-third of respondents (34%) say that they are very likely to use high-speed rail service, while another 31% identify themselves as somewhat likely to use this mode of transportation. • Millennials, Black Americans, and Northeasterners are among the demographic segments most likely to use high-speed rail service. Close to four in five Americans aged 18-24 (78%) claim they are likely to use high-speed rail for business or leisure travel. –Over three-quarters of respondents identifying themselves as Black (77%) report that they are likely to utilize high-speed rail, while 75% of Northeastern Americans will likely be using this transportation mode also. • In terms of party affiliation, respondents identifying themselves as Democrats expressed the highest likelihood of using high-speed rail for business or leisure travel, at 73%. –More than three in five Independents (61%) report that they would be likely to take high-speed rail if it were available, a decline of seven points from last year. –The share of Republicans who are likely to use high-speed train service increased by three percentage points this year, to 58%.”

Health Care

Cai-Xia Song,, 6-9-2021, "Does High-Speed Rail Opening Affect the Health Care Environment?–Evidence From China," Frontiers, [https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2021.7085](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2021.708527/full)

[27/full](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2021.708527/full)

“Using the panel data of 280 prefecture-level cities in China from 2004 to 2014, this paper examines the effects of high-speed rail opening on health care environment based on Difference-in-Differences method (DID). Through an empirical analysis, the results proved that high-speed rail opening can significantly promote the health care environment and this effect is different in regions with different levels of economic development. Finally, we tested the mechanisms of how the high-speed rail opening affects the healthcare environment. High-speed rail opening improves the healthcare environment by increasing road accessibility and promoting economic development. Our results support the view that high-speed rail opening has an important contribution to the improvement of health care conditions.”

<https://www.railjournal.com/passenger/high-speed/design-contract-awarded-for-prague-lovosice-high-speed-line/>

<https://www.fresnobee.com/opinion/editorials/article264451076.html>

https://www.forbes.com/sites/alanohnsman/2022/07/16/california-bullet-train-gets-42-billion-green-light-for-first-phase-while-bigger-challenges-loom/?sh=240d803d25b1

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7127499/>

https://bright-green.org/2021/03/20/if-the-left-is-serious-about-tackling-climate-change-we-need-to-back-hs2/

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/transportation/article/Texas-Supreme-Court-sides-with-bullet-train-16258265.php>

Cutting traffic lines for

HSR

https://defector.com/virgin-hyperloop-has-invented-the-worlds-crappiest-high-speed-rail/?fbclid=IwAR2HZ0e6Fn4g-sCBNM2kvgc1iF2mbBrjhsAqWdm-C7llU1yvfH3aI2m-xqE