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For Immediate Release

California Inland Empire leaders applaud ‘transformative’ high-speed rail project, shine spotlight on Cucamonga Station expansion

To view a video recap of the event, [click here](#).

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, Calif. – December 11, 2023 – The Brightline West high-speed rail project is a game-changer for the Inland Empire, bringing new and advanced economic development, mobility and career opportunities to Southern California’s most dynamic population center, local leaders said Monday.

The eagerly anticipated project, which will provide electrified high-speed rail service between Las Vegas and Rancho Cucamonga, cleared one of its final hurdles this past week when the Biden Administration announced \$3 billion in federal funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

It is being hailed as one of the largest public investments ever for a privately built transportation system and a critical final step toward the start of construction, which could begin by early 2024.

On Monday, elected officials, business leaders and community stakeholders from across San Bernardino County gathered at Cucamonga Station to celebrate the funding announcement and the far-reaching impact the Brightline West project will have on the region. Construction alone will support more than 11,000 jobs each year and bring \$5 billion in spending to the county, \$300 million of it to Rancho Cucamonga, city officials said.

“We are thrilled to witness the realization of this transformative project that connects our dynamic regions,” said Rancho Cucamonga Mayor L. Dennis Michael. “This strategic investment in cutting-edge infrastructure not only opens doors to jobs, economic growth, tourism, and commercial ventures but also enhances Southern California’s global connectivity.”

The high-speed rail project comes as San Bernardino County and the Inland Empire have established themselves as the new center of Southern California. Now the 12th largest metropolitan area in the United States, the two-county region will add nearly 1 million new residents by 2050, according to the California Department of Finance. By contrast, Los Angeles County is expected to lose population.

The project also puts a spotlight on the county’s growth as an economic and travel destination, centered at Cucamonga Station and nearby Ontario International Airport (ONT). Plans are underway to redevelop the station

into a state-of-the-art multimodal transportation center that may serve as many as 11 million passengers per year using the high-speed rail service. A partnership has been formed between the City of Rancho Cucamonga, ONT, San Bernardino County, the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA), Omnitrans and Metrolink to maximize the arrival of the Brightline West project.

“The arrival of Brightline West and the new Cucamonga Station underscore how the Inland Empire and western San Bernardino County have become a transportation hub and economic driver for Southern California and beyond. These projects align perfectly with Ontario International Airport’s mission of connecting people, places and opportunities to build a better world, and we applaud all who were involved in securing this critical funding,” said Atif Elkadi, CEO of the Ontario International Airport Authority.

Said Dawn Rowe, President of the SBCTA Board of Directors and Chair of the county Board of Supervisors, “This high-speed rail system will be a significant economic driver for San Bernardino County, while improving connectivity and reducing congestion between here and Las Vegas. It also will provide an efficient, sustainable transit solution through the Cajon Pass, which opens up new business employment and housing opportunities between the High Desert and East and West Valleys.”

Added Michael Krouse, President and CEO of Greater Ontario California (GOCAL), “This is an exciting moment for Greater Ontario and Southern California as a whole. The Brightline West and Cucamonga Station projects are game-changers for our region, bringing in more visitors, providing more opportunities to connect workers with job opportunities, and showcasing all that Greater Ontario has to offer from a hospitality, entertainment and economic perspective. At GOCAL, we are honored to support the Vegas-to-Rancho Cucamonga high-speed rail line and the development of the new Cucamonga Station.”

Kome Ajise, Executive Director of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), described the project as critical to meeting the growth needs of the region.

“We congratulate Brightline West for its vision and commitment to bringing high-speed rail to Southern California. This extraordinary infusion of federal grant funding into a private project is a tribute to Brightline West, as well as Caltrans and every other stakeholder group that has collaborated on this innovative transportation solution. In a short amount of time, the Las Vegas-to-Rancho Cucamonga high-speed rail connector has become one of the most highly anticipated transportation projects in the U.S., and we look forward to celebrating its upcoming groundbreaking and eventual launch.”

“With Brightline West, Metrolink, West Valley Connector bus rapid transit service and direct shuttle service to and from Ontario International Airport, Cucamonga Station is becoming one of the most important transportation centers in Southern California. At Omnitrans, we are proud to partner on the expansion of this regional transit hub and look forward to providing additional connections for commuters across our region,” said Erin Rogers, CEO and General Manager of Omnitrans.

About the City of Rancho Cucamonga

The City of Rancho Cucamonga encompasses nearly 47 square miles and is located 40 miles east of Los Angeles; considered to be the premier city in the Inland Empire, Rancho Cucamonga is one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in Southern California with a current population of over 175,000 residents. Visit www.cityofrc.us.

About Metrolink

Metrolink regional passenger rail service offers reliable, safe, affordable and environmentally sustainable transportation throughout Southern California. Metrolink has 545.6 total service line miles and 66 stations across Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura and San Diego counties connecting people, communities, and businesses and is an essential link in the region’s mobility network. Metrolink’s Arrow service, which launched in October 2022 with nine miles of track and four new stations between San Bernardino and Redlands, provides greater local and regional rail connectivity. More information is available at www.metrolinktrains.com.

About Ontario International Airport

Ontario International Airport (ONT) is the fastest growing airport in the United States, according to Global Traveler, a leading publication for frequent fliers. Located in the Inland Empire, ONT is approximately 35 miles east of downtown Los Angeles in the center of Southern California. It is a full-service airport which offers nonstop commercial jet service to nearly two dozen major airports in the U.S., Mexico, Central America and Taiwan. More information is available at www.flyOntario.com.

About Omnitrans

Established in 1976 through a joint powers agreement, Omnitrans carries approximately 11 million passengers each year throughout its 480-square mile service area, covering 15 cities and portions of the unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County. Major destinations within the Omnitrans service area include transportation centers, medical centers, educational facilities, shopping malls, business parks, and community centers. More information is available at www.omnitrans.org.

About GOCAL

Greater Ontario California (GOCAL) is the official destination marketing organization to promote the cities of Ontario and Rancho Cucamonga, California to visitors nationally and internationally. As destination experts we provide leisure, meeting groups and meeting professionals with an unbiased, comprehensive resource when booking a tour, convention, meeting or event within the cities of Ontario and Rancho Cucamonga, California. Ideal for leisure and business travel, the region boasts scenic mountains, deserts, vineyards and metropolitan areas that are both historic and cosmopolitan in character. Under the umbrella of the Greater Ontario California is the California Welcome Center and several Signature Events to support the overall mission to drive visitors to the region, stimulating economic growth. GOCAL provides the necessary destination support tools to execute a successful experience. Visit www.GO-CAL.org.

About San Bernardino County

San Bernardino County is a diverse public service organization serving America's largest county. We are governed by an elected Board of Supervisors and dedicated to creating a community where nearly 2.2 million residents can prosper and achieve well-being as outlined in the [Countywide Vision](#). It is comprised of 42 departments and agencies, which are staffed by more than 25,000 public service professionals who provide a wide range of vital services in the areas of public safety, health care, social services, economic and community development and revitalization, fiscal services, infrastructure, recreation and culture, and internal support. San Bernardino County's organizational culture is defined by the four pillars of value, innovation, service, and vision. Visit www.sbcounty.gov

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FACT SHEET

THE HEART OF THE INLAND EMPIRE

The Cucamonga Station is an exciting multi-modal transportation hub in the heart of the Inland Empire with planned projects and enhancements that will elevate the region's foothold of being a global connectivity point and destination to everything California has to offer. Cucamonga Station will encourage millions of Southern California residents and annual visitors to think beyond the automobile and toward a future of smart, sustainable travel.

Although many transit options currently exist, in the not-too-distant future, Cucamonga Station will offer new opportunities for the community to commute, travel and explore new food, shopping, and entertainment destinations. It will improve regional connectivity between Metrolink passenger rail and Omnitrans Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) services and bring the first high-speed rail service to Southern California - Brightline West. This new line will connect Rancho Cucamonga to Las Vegas with stops in the High Desert; along with a planned underground tunnel transit service to the Ontario International Airport (ONT) terminals.

TRANSPORTATION MODES AT CUCAMONGA STATION

- Brightline West high-speed rail system*
- Metrolink San Bernardino Line
- Carpool commuters
- Taxis and Ride-share services
- Tunnel transit service to ONT terminals*
- Omnitrans Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)* and local bus service
- Omnitrans ONT Connect shuttle loop service between airport and existing station

*Future

PROJECT BENEFITS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Livability, connectivity and access will improve for Inland Empire residents and all of Southern California
- Improved offering of mobility alternatives versus automobile travel
- Cucamonga Station will be a catalyst for economic growth in the region
- Brightline West expects to invest more than \$300 million in construction spending in Rancho Cucamonga; more than \$5 billion in San Bernardino County during next four years
- High-speed rail construction will support 11,000 jobs per year in San Bernardino County and 700 in Rancho Cucamonga

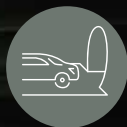
High-Speed Passenger Rail Project General Schedule

Environmental Phase: Completed in July 2023

Design Phase: In Process

Construction Phase: TBD; projected 3 1/2 year construction timeline

Schedule is subject to change due to inclement weather or unexpected conditions.



PROPOSED STATION AND TRANSIT HUB



KEY PROJECT FEATURES

- New designated passenger waiting areas with modern amenities
- Omnitrans BRT service and new multi-bay bus terminals
- High-speed rail between Rancho Cucamonga and Las Vegas, with easy connections from Los Angeles via Metrolink San Bernardino Line
- New bicycle paths, sidewalks, walkways, and platforms; connectivity to 6th Street bicycle track
- Metrolink San Bernardino Line that extends to Redlands through the new Metrolink Arrow Line
- Entrance to the anticipated tunnel transit service to ONT terminals

SENSE OF PLACE

Cucamonga Station is strategically located within the HART District - a new transit-oriented, mixed-use housing, retail and commercial district that elevates the area into a walkable, culture-rich experience.

Located within the area of Haven Avenue, Arrow Route, Rochester Avenue and the Transit District in Rancho Cucamonga, it will serve as a crossroads of food, travel, culture and commerce. The HART District is poised to be the next key economic catalyst in the region. To learn more, go to www.thehartdistrict.com.



OUR REGIONAL PARTNERS:



CONTACT THE CITY OF RANCHO CUCAMONGA FOR MORE INFORMATION

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CUCAMONGA STATION



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

STATION OVERVIEW



What is Cucamonga Station?

Serving as a key transportation hub for multiple modes of transportation service, Cucamonga Station will be a full-service transit facility that includes the existing Metrolink platforms (located at 11208 Azusa Court, just west of Milliken Avenue) and new construction for Omnitrans expanded bus services. High-speed rail service Brightline West is planned to construct a passenger rail station on-premises with service between Rancho Cucamonga and Las Vegas with station stops in the High Desert.

OUR REGIONAL PARTNERS



Who are the core partners who have joined together in the marketing and outreach effort for this major transit project?

The City of Rancho Cucamonga, Greater Ontario California (GOCAL), Omnitrans, Ontario International Airport (ONT), and San Bernardino County have established a joint effort for the project development and outreach programs. Additional project partners will be added as the project moves forward through the development process.

- **City of Rancho Cucamonga** - Cucamonga Station at the newly branded HART District, is a mixed-use, transit-oriented development encompassing the general areas of Haven Avenue, Arrow Route, Rochester Avenue and the Transit District in Rancho Cucamonga.
- **Omnitrans** - As part of the new Cucamonga Station, Omnitrans will build new multi-bay bus terminals and include a key stop for the West Valley Connector Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service, which broke ground in October 2023 and is expected to begin operation in 2026. To learn more about the 19-mile BRT line through the cities of Pomona, Montclair, Ontario, and Rancho Cucamonga and other transit initiatives, go to www.omnitrans.org.
- **Greater Ontario California (GOCAL)** - Improving public transit connectivity and promoting hospitality options throughout the region is key to attracting more national and international visitors. To learn more about what GOCAL is doing to promote the region as the Gateway to Southern California, go to www.gocvb.org.
- **Ontario International Airport (ONT)** - Identified as the fastest-growing airport in the United States, ONT provides an incredible opportunity for continued growth during the coming decades. To better serve the region and improve connectivity, ONT, in partnership with San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA), are developing an underground tunnel connection between Cucamonga Station and the airport terminals. To learn more about ONT and other initiatives, go to www.flyontario.com.
- **San Bernardino County** - At the heart of Southern California, San Bernardino County is one of the world's most dynamic and diverse economies. It is a hub for global commerce in large part due to its connectivity to highways, rail and air. To learn more about San Bernardino County and the opportunities that await, go to www.selectsbcounty.com.

STATION BENEFITS



What are the benefits of Cucamonga Station to the community and region?

Cucamonga Station is located in the newly branded "HART District" that encompasses the general areas of Haven Avenue, Arrow Route, Rochester Avenue and the identified Transit District. The Station's strategic location makes the vision for the HART District as a 21st Century Employment District a reality, creating a catalyst for employment growth; an economic driver for technology, businesses, entertainment, and development; and a touchstone for a thriving community culture.

The HART District is a transit-oriented, mixed-use district with amenities accessible within walking distance and an active community that will be a business and destination "hot spot," elevating the area into a walkable, culture-rich experience. The development of Cucamonga Station and the HART District provides opportunities for job creation, corporate settings, a destination for hotel stays and a thriving hospitality industry.

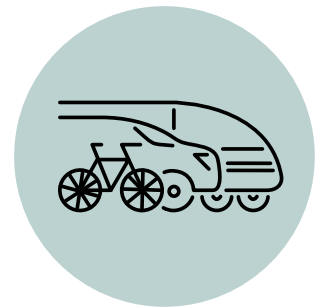


TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIVITY AND AMENITIES



What type of transportation providers / amenities will be located at Cucamonga Station?

- The Metrolink San Bernardino line will continue to provide passenger train service from San Bernardino to Los Angeles. In October 2022, Metrolink's Arrow Line began passenger rail service between Redlands and San Bernardino.
- Omnitrans will provide Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and local bus service.
- Brightline West*, a private high-speed rail company, will construct, own and operate a passenger rail line between Las Vegas and Southern California, with stations in Las Vegas, Apple Valley, Hesperia, and Rancho Cucamonga. The company has purchased land at Cucamonga Station to build the station and is working on the design phase. Environmental clearance for the overall project was achieved in July 2023. In December 2023, \$3 billion in federal funding was secured and in January 2024, \$2.5 in private activity bonds was approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Also in January early field investigative work began in California and Nevada. Cucamonga Station will
- seamlessly connect passengers to destinations throughout Southern California and beyond via Metrolink and ONT.
- The entrance to the anticipated tunnel connection to ONT terminals.
- Omnitrans currently provides FREE shuttle services from Cucamonga Station to ONT terminals. This service launched in 2022.
- Automobile/rideshare.
- 6th Street Bicycle Track with plans for extended bicycle connections.



* Plans for restaurants, retail, residential, hotel and/or office space are also in the works!

CURRENT PASSENGER RAIL DEMAND

? How many riders currently use the San Bernardino Line Metrolink Rancho Cucamonga Station stop?

Rancho Cucamonga is the third-busiest station only behind Los Angeles' Union Station and Downtown San Bernardino on the Metrolink San Bernardino Line. Over 800 average daily on-boardings/off-boardings occurred during weekdays at the Rancho Cucamonga Station stop (FY 2023). Increased ridership along the San Bernardino Line is expected to increase as the Arrow Line passenger rail service between San Bernardino and Redlands began operation in October 2022.

HIGH-SPEED PASSENGER RAIL PROJECT TIMELINE

? What is the anticipated construction timeline for the Brightline West High-Speed Passenger Rail Project?

While an exact timeline has not been established, the following provides a general schedule:

Environmental Phase: Completed in July 2023

Design Phase: In Process

Construction Phase: TBD; projected construction timeline is 3 1/2 years from the start.*

**Official dates TBD - Schedule is subject to change due to inclement weather or unexpected conditions*

Contact the following City of Rancho Cucamonga Team Members to find out more:

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Branding & Partnerships

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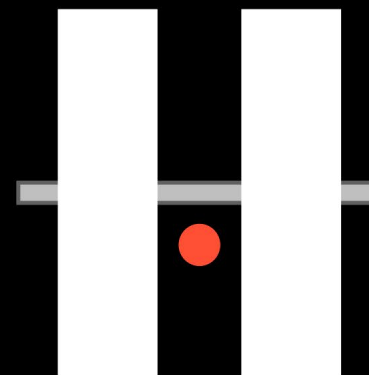
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OUR REGIONAL OUTREACH PARTNERS





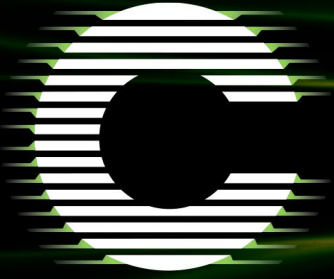
CUCAMONGA
STATION



the HART DISTRICT

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- **Cucamonga Station and the HART District Overviews**
 - **Benefits – Commuters, Economy, Environmental & Safety**
 - **Cucamonga Station Future Services**
 - **Regional Partnership Promotes Inland Empire as Connectivity and Economic Hub**
- 



CUCAMONGA STATION

- **Multi-modal transportation hub in the heart of the Inland Empire**
- **First high-speed rail station in the U.S. that will provide connections to air, bus and local passenger rail**
- **Serve as an economic catalyst by attracting visitors around the region and the globe, and creating commerce**

ARROW ROUTE

METROLINK SAN BERNARDINO LINE

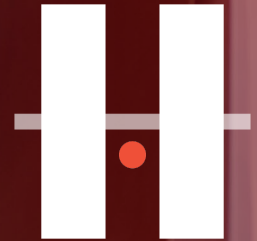


MILLIKEN AVE.

6TH STREET

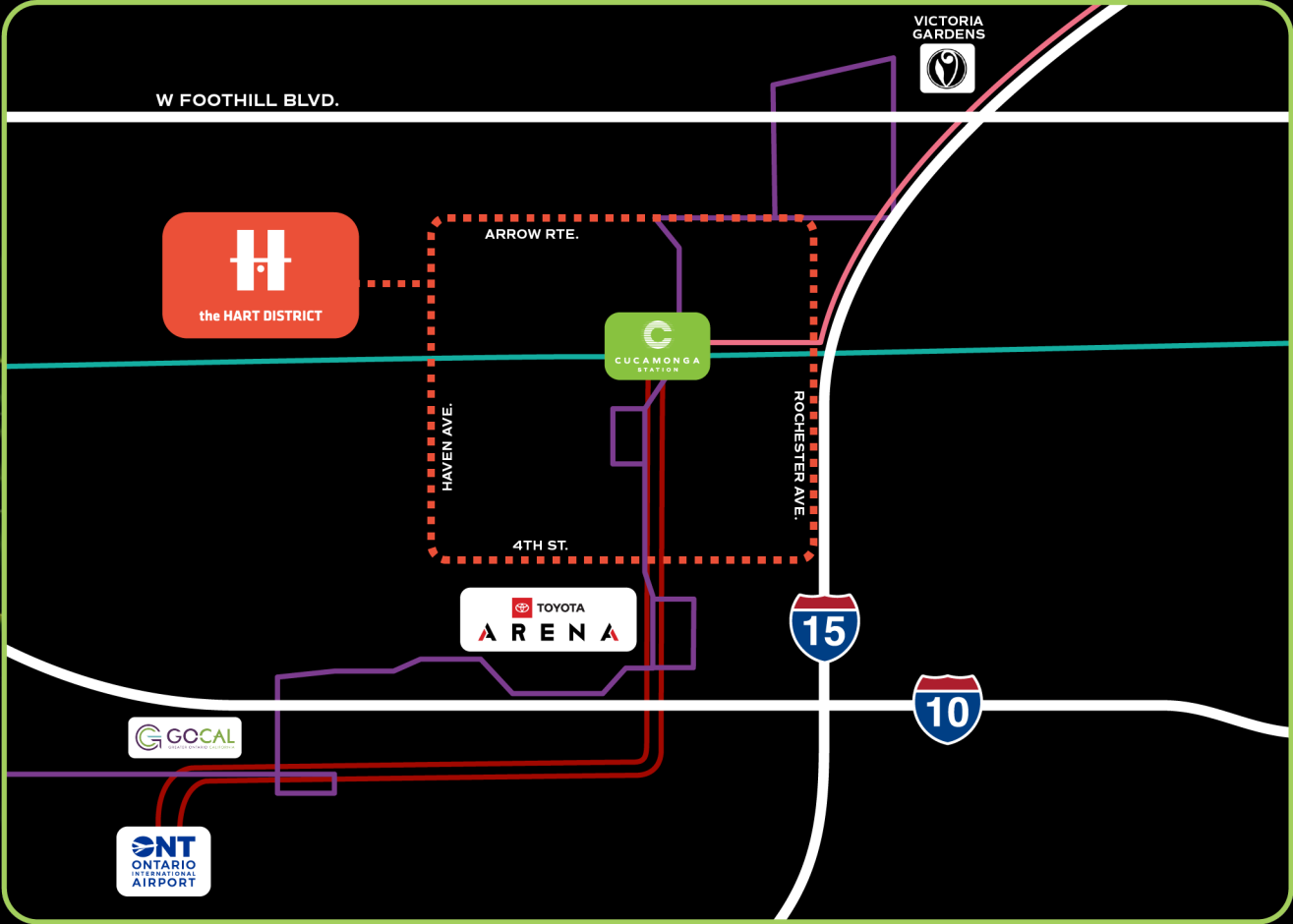
What is the HART District?





- A 21st century employment district serving the region
- A new transit-oriented, mixed-use housing, retail and commercial district that elevates the area into a walkable, culture-rich experience
- HART District and adjacent Arena District in Ontario will make this destination a “hot spot” for entertainment, business and living
- This area is within: H – Haven Avenue, A – Arrow Route, and R– Rochester Avenue forms our T– transit district



the HART DISTRICT

The HART District is poised to be a key economic catalyst in the region creating a lifestyle and commerce hub unlike any other in the Inland Empire.



-  METROLINK SAN BERNARDINO LINE
-  OMNITRANS WEST VALLEY CONNECTOR
-  BRIGHTLINE WEST
-  TUNNEL TO ONT



CUCAMONGA STATION COMMUTER BENEFITS

- A multi-modal transportation hub that makes driving optional to connect in our region and beyond
- Cucamonga Station currently provides service through Metrolink, Omnitrans buses, ONT Connect (a direct shuttle connection to ONT, 7 days a week)
- New services will include Brightline West, Omnitrans' West Valley Connector Bus Rapid Transit, and the underground tunnel to ONT – all coming online ahead of the 2028 Summer Olympics in LA





ENVIRONMENTAL & SAFETY BENEFITS

- Brightline West will use all-electric, **zero-emission** train sets which will remove **millions** of cars from the road and significantly reduce vehicle miles traveled annually, reducing CO2 emissions by **hundreds of thousands of tons** every year and helping both California and Nevada realize their respective emissions reduction goals.
- The alignment enhances safety throughout the corridor not only by reducing traffic, but also by operating in a protected, dedicated rail corridor within the I-15 right-of-way with **zero at-grade** crossings.





ENVIRONMENTAL & SAFETY BENEFITS

- Brightline West will create a substantial reduction in highway-related deaths and injuries.
- Brightline West will improve hundreds of existing culverts and large-scale crossings under the I-15 highway.
- Brightline West also has a separate agreement in place with Caltrans and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife to construct **three wildlife overcrossings** across the I-15 and the future high-speed rail system that will provide a sustainable and safe path for wildlife.



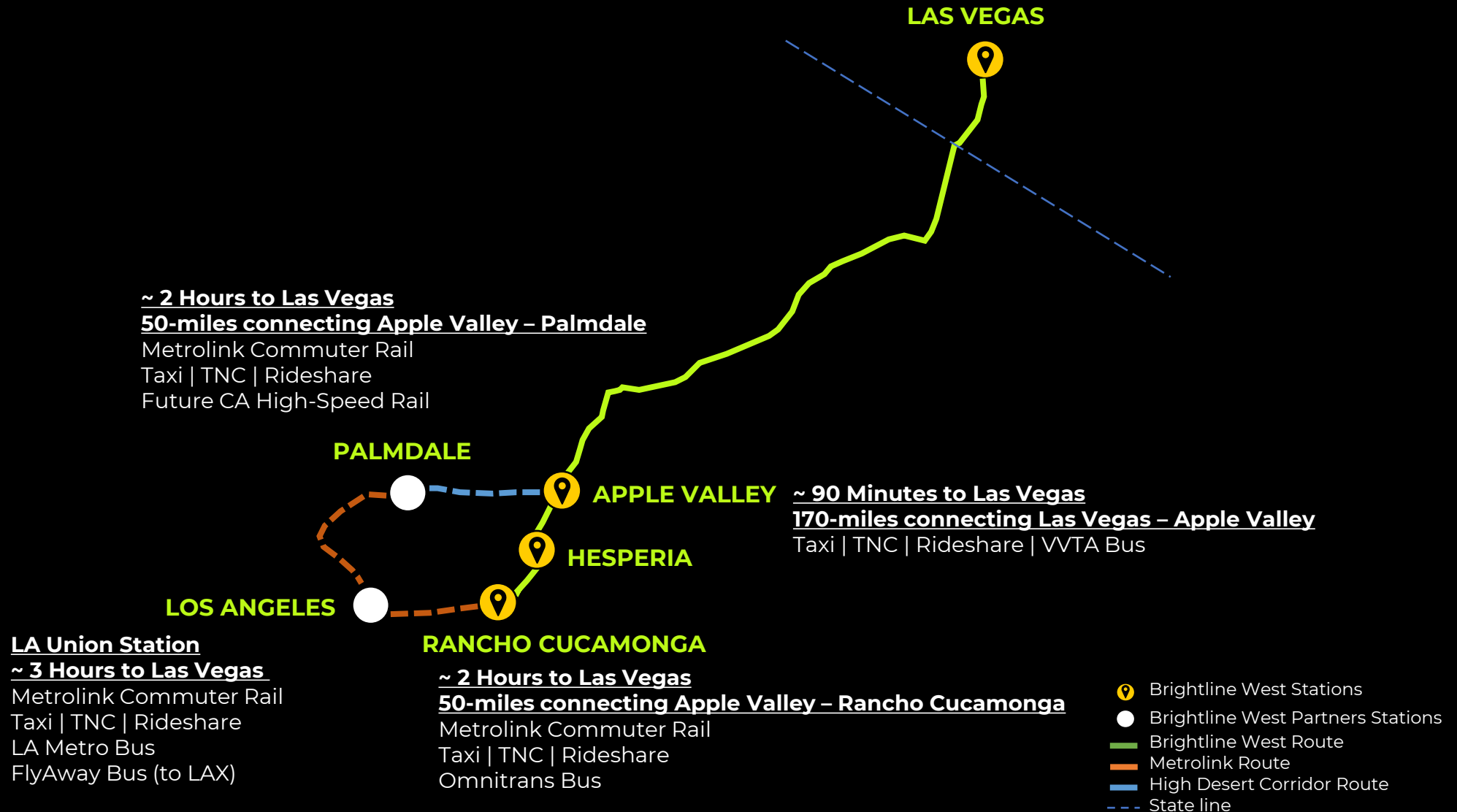


CUCAMONGA STATION ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Omnitrans' West Valley Connector BRT line will be a **100% zero-emission** system serving the region
- Electric vehicles to be used for the shuttle loop tunnel between Cucamonga Station and Ontario International Airport will be **100% zero emission**



BRIGHTLINE WEST SYSTEM MAP



brightline west



- 218-mile, fully electric high-speed passenger rail system connecting Las Vegas and Southern California
- The system will primarily operate within the median of the Interstate 15 right-of-way from Las Vegas, through the High Desert and southern terminus at Cucamonga Station
- Capable of speeds of 200 miles per hour
- Will create nearly 35,000 jobs during construction, including 10,000 direct union field jobs, and approximately 1,000 permanent jobs in operations and maintenance, about 900 of those being union roles
- Total economic impact is estimated at more than \$10 billion and \$1 billion in tax revenue, representing a significant opportunity of private investment for both California and Nevada

FINANCING

Private Activity Bonds

- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) approved **\$2.5 billion** in private activity bonds in January 2024
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) approved **\$1 billion** in private activity bonds in 2020

Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program

- Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) received **\$3 billion** in funding from the **Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)** in December 2023

IBank Bond Financing

- California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank) approved **\$2 billion bond** request in August 2023

RAISE Grant

- San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) received a **\$25 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant** award in June 2023 to fund final design and construction of two Brightline West in-line stations and associated facilities in Hesperia and Apple Valley.

BRIGHTLINE WEST MILESTONES

OCTOBER 2022

Land Sale to
Brightline West

FEBRUARY 2023

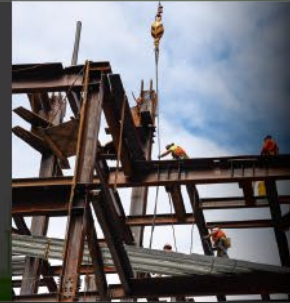
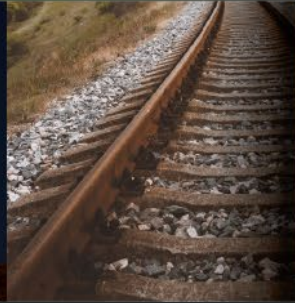
MOU High-Speed
Rail Labor Coalition

SUMMER 2023

Environmental
Process Completion

**SPRING/
SUMMER 2024**

Start of Construction



FEBRUARY 2023

Caltrans, CDFWD
Wildlife Crossing
Agreement

MARCH 2023

MOU Building and
Construction Trades

DECEMBER 2023

Federal Funding
Secured

2027

Construction
Completion

CUCAMONGA STATION

Canyon view from Plaza



Parking structure



CUCAMONGA STATION

Platform view

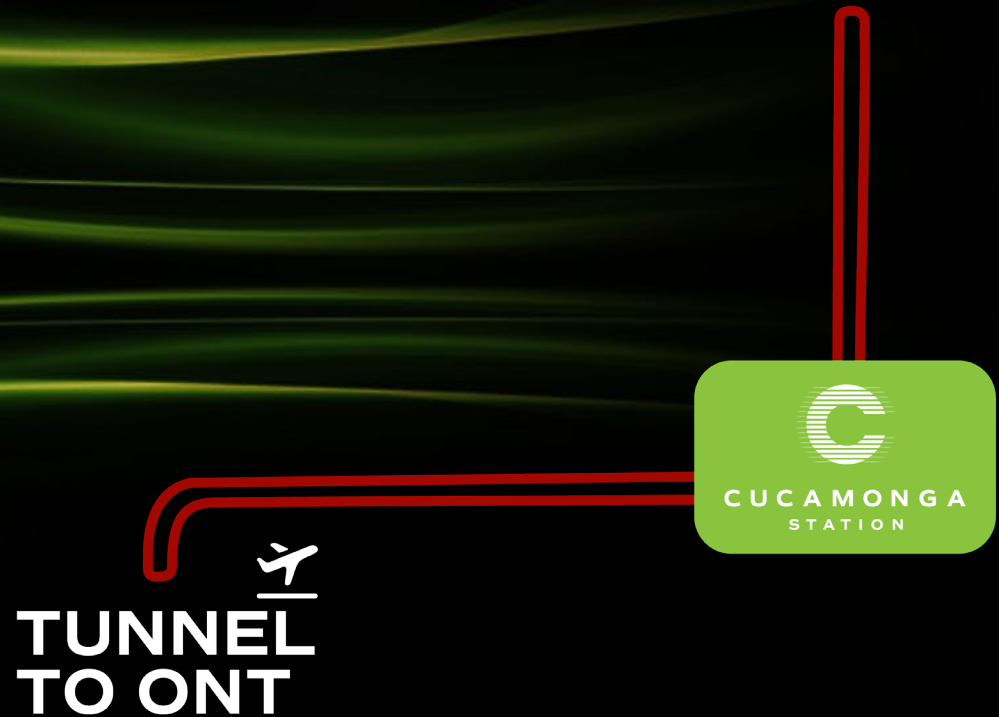


Interior



ONT | SBCTA

TUNNEL TO ONTARIO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROJECT



- **4-mile tunnel for vehicle transit connection from Cucamonga Station to Ontario International Airport**
- **Project Construction Management team already in place for implementation of project**
- **In process of identifying qualified Design Builder**
- **Utilizing a hybrid progressive design-build methodology**
- **Commencement of service targeted for Fall 2027**

ONT CONNECT

SHUTTLE SERVICE TO AIRPORT TERMINALS

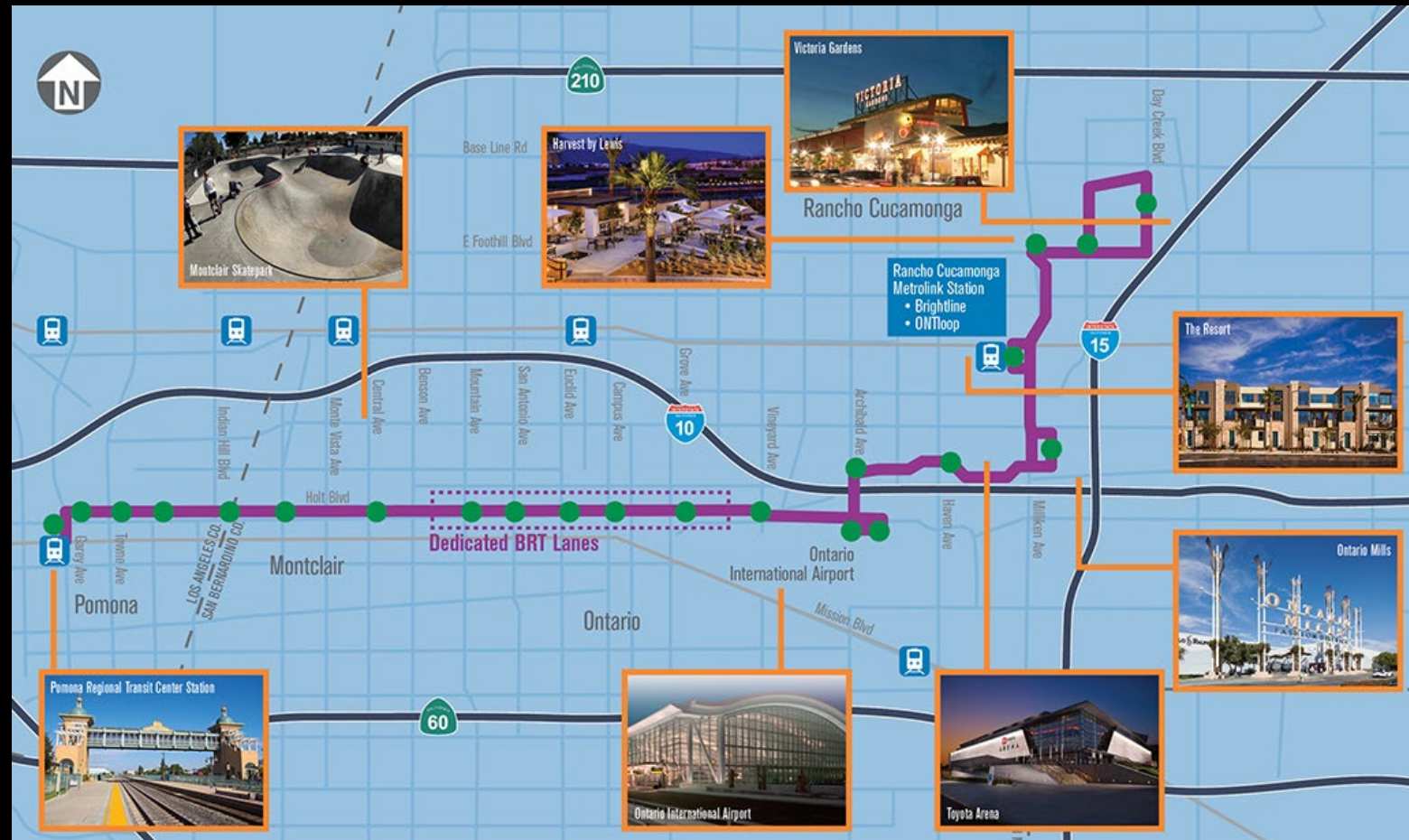
- **ONT Connect, a direct shuttle service operated by Omnitrans, between Cucamonga Station and Ontario International Airport operates seven days a week**
- **Free transfer for Metrolink passengers to ONT Connect – makes travel efficient, convenient and economical (for non-transfer: fares apply)**
- **ONT Connect shuttles have similar amenities as the large buses, and can carry twelve passengers, two mobility devices and two bicycles**
- **Fares are the same as Omnitrans fixed route service**

ONT ✈️
CONNECT



SBCTA/OMNITRANS WEST VALLEY CONNECTOR

- **100% zero-emission** Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system
- **Phase 1:**
 - **19 miles** and will upgrade a portion of existing Route 61
 - **21 stations**, providing improved connectivity to **ONT, Metrolink San Bernardino Line at Cucamonga Station**, and **Riverside Line at Downtown Pomona**
 - **Connects major employment and activity centers along the route including Ontario Mills and Victoria Gardens**
 - **Construction started in Fall 2023; anticipated start of service in Spring 2026**



A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

- **First high-speed rail service in the Western U.S. coming to the Inland Empire is a game changer**
- **Creates new possibilities to partner with organizations from Nevada, through the High Desert, into San Bernardino and Riverside counties**
- **Marketing and Communications Partnership promotes commuter connectivity, economic opportunities and environmental stewardship of multi-modal services and transit-oriented development**

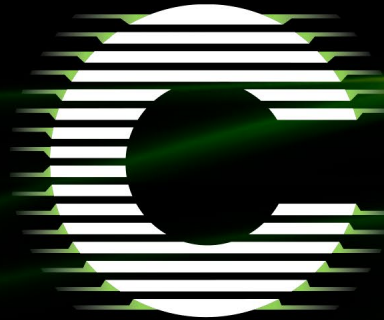




A BIGGER VISION FOR THE REGION

Cucamonga Station & the HART District are key drivers in a bigger vision, creating a positive economic development ripple effect for the region.





CUCAMONGA
STATION

FOLLOW OUR TRANSFORMATION
CUCAMONGASTATION.COM