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High Speed Rail development in the USA:

UIC welcomes the decision of California's Senate to allocate the funding needed to start construction of the first high speed line between Los Angeles and San Francisco

At the same time, the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) is admitted as a new UIC Member at the 80th UIC General Assembly in Philadelphia

(Philadelphia, 10 July 2012) Lawmakers of California gave the green light on 6 July to allocate the funding needed to start building the first dedicated high speed rail line in the United States of America linking Los Angeles to San Francisco, which is currently estimated to cost 68 billion USD.

The decision taken last Friday by the California's state legislature concerns firstly the construction of the 210 km pilot section between Madera and Bakersfield in the Central Valley. This decision, which makes an end to a long process which has spent years in the planning stages, marks a major political step forward in the implementation of the Government's plans to develop a number of high speed corridors as job generators and clean transportation alternatives.

"No economy can grow faster than its transportation network allows", US Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said in a statement. "With highways between California cities congested and airspace at a premium, Californians desperately need an alternative."

Dan Richard, Chairman of the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) which is managing the project, said on Friday that "not only will California be the first state in the nation to build a high speed rail system to connect our urban centres, we will also modernise and improve rail systems at local and regional level."

UIC welcomes this decision. Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, UIC Director-General, said: "the world's railway community welcomes this decision to start the implementation of high speed rail in the US. As it is continuously demonstrated, day after day, in countries which introduced high

speed train operations, this type of transport will definitively contribute to the development of a safe, efficient, customer-friendly, sustainable mobility system serving customers as well as society as a whole.”

At the same time, the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) has just become a UIC Member today following approval during the 80th UIC General Assembly held in Philadelphia. “It’s a very timely coincidence” said Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, welcoming the arrival of this new Member and the positive direction taken by high speed rail in the USA following the California’s vote last Friday.

Among the points discussed during the UIC General Assembly, updates on partnerships with professional rail organisations were made by Jean-Pierre Loubinoux who underlined the real opportunity for UIC to be part of the creation of the American high speed network by peer-reviewing the programme in California. Recently, a close partnership has been formed between UIC and CHSRA to define the fields of cooperation and UIC’s support methods.

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UIC, the worldwide trade association of railroads

Its core missions: promoting the development of rail transportation across the world, organising international cooperation between its members, contributing to the adoption of global railway standards

Founding of UIC 90 years ago

In the wave of two intergovernmental conferences held in Italy, the International Union of Railways (UIC) was founded in 1922, its headquarters based in Paris. The founding members comprised 46 railways from 27 countries across Europe, Middle-East, China and Japan. UIC became the worldwide non-profit trade association of railroads and currently has 200 members from 91 countries on all 5 continents. Members may be integrated railroads, rail operators, infrastructure managers or rail service providers such as rolling stock leasing companies, etc. UIC Members from North America are the Federal Railroad Administration (US DoT), the Association of American Railroads (AAR), Amtrak and VIA Rail Canada. UIC celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2012.

UIC’s missions

UIC’s initial mission was to harmonise conditions for creating and operating railways at international level. Its missions were progressively extended and are currently focused on promoting rail as the most sustainable transportation mode across the world, enhancing international cooperation between its members – with a view to increasing competitiveness and interoperability – and contributing to building a coherent railway system through harmonised standards at global level. UIC is supporting all efforts made by its members to increase effectiveness, sustainability and profitability of rail transportation, for the benefit of customers and society as a whole.

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To achieve its goals, UIC maintains and develops cooperation links and concludes agreements with a large number of institutions and international organisations, among them the United Nations and its specialised bodies, the World Bank, OECD, NATO, regional organisations, and transport associations such as APTA, USHSR, IHHA...

UIC Governance

UIC is led by the General Assembly composed of Chairmen and CEOs of the 200 members. The guidelines for global activities are given by the UIC Executive Board, made up of 21 members with geographical representation. Cooperation activities at regional level are steered and managed within 6

UIC Regions (North and South America, Asia, Africa, Europe and the Middle-East), with each region chaired by a railway CEO from the region. Paris UIC headquarters is led by the UIC Director-General assisted by a board of Directors, 4 technical departments, 4 support departments, and 3 subsidiaries in charge of specific tasks. Technical cooperation activities are organised in the framework of professional bodies, forums and platforms, comprising member railway representatives in charge of Passenger (including High Speed), Freight, Rail System (including infrastructure, rolling stock, traffic management systems, etc.), Research, Safety, Security, Expertise Development,...

Main types of action

The promotion of rail transportation through expertise and capacity-building, as well as knowledge sharing, are major objectives which UIC addresses through:

- Drafting technical standards, including interoperability standards for railways ("UIC Code", comprising 700 leaflets, constitutes a recognised reference worldwide),
- Promoting projects for the development in a systemic approach of all components of the railway system,
- Developing global and regional studies concerning railway corridors, multimodal transport links, etc.
- Research activities for increasing safety, optimising customer satisfaction, reducing costs,...
- Drafting and updating visions for all 6 UIC Regions (see above),
- Further developing advantages of railroads in terms of the most sustainable transportation mode,
- Organising the exchange of experience through international congresses, conferences, workshops on technical issues,
- Developing worldwide expertise training and human resource networking.

UIC's action in the field of High Speed Rail

Main actions targeted at supporting the development of high speed rail systems across the globe include:

- Promoting the development of high speed rail systems under ideal conditions for member railways, customers and society,
- Supporting the railways which operate or plan high speed transportation in their relations with authorities, industry,
- Optimising the modal interfaces between high speed and regional transportation at stations as passenger hubs,
- Conducting studies on specific aspects of high speed (HSR and the environment, HSR and profitability, HSR in the city,...),
- Providing members with best practice, statistics on HSR,
- Regularly organising the UIC HIGH SPEED world congresses (8th World Congress in Philadelphia) as well as conferences with more technical focus,
- Organising training sessions/practicums.

For more information please visit UIC website: www.uic.org