



Berkeley Law | Center for Law, Energy,
& the Environment

CALIFORNIA RAIL TRANSIT COSTS

GETTING BACK *On* TRACK

Policy Solutions to Improve California Rail Transit
Projects

JANUARY 2022
Policy Report



San Francisco Central Subway

San Diego Mid-Coast Corridor
Trolley

Los Angeles Purple Line

Bay Area Rapid Transit Berryessa
Extension

California High-Speed Rail

THEMES + RECOMMENDATIONS



PROCUREMENT
AND
CONTRACTING
METHODS



ADVANCE AND
ONGOING
MULTI-AGENCY
COORDINATION



MEGAPROJECT
MANAGEMENT
CAPACITY AND
EXPERTISE



PROJECT SCOPE
AND DESIGN



COMPREHENSIVE
STAKEHOLDER
OUTREACH

SAN DIEGO MID-COAST TROLLEY



	TOTAL COST (\$ MILLIONS)	YEARS OF CONSTRUCTION	COST PER KM (\$MILLIONS/KM)	YEARS OF CONSTRUCTION PER KM (YR/KM)
Expected ⁶³	CA - \$826	CA - 8.6	CA - \$47	CA - 0.50
	U.S. - \$1,090	U.S. - 7.9	U.S. - \$62	U.S. - 0.50
	Int'l. - \$661	Int'l. - 8.8	Int'l. - \$38	Int'l. - 0.50
Actual	\$2,171	5.0	\$124	0.3
Comparison to Baseline			CA - 260%	CA - 60%
			U.S. - 200%	U.S. - 60%
			Int'l. - 330%	Int'l. - 60%

USING APPROPRIATE PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING METHODS

- Break projects into smaller contracts
- Consider advance utility removal contracts
- Consider CMGC/CMAR
- Update state law to allow all transit agencies to use CMGC/CMAR
- Structure state grants to encourage efficient procurement

SAN FRANCISCO CENTRAL SUBWAY



	TOTAL COST (\$ MILLIONS)	YEARS OF CONSTRUCTION	COST PER KM (\$MILLIONS/KM)	YEARS OF CONSTRUCTION PER KM (YR/KM)
Expected	CA - n/a	CA - n/a	CA - n/a	CA - n/a
	U.S. - \$1,570	U.S. - 4.7	U.S. - \$574	U.S. - 1.7
	Int'l. - \$620	Int'l. - 4.0	Int'l. - \$227	Int'l. - 1.5
Actual	\$1,891	12.0	\$691	4.4
Comparison to Baseline			CA - n/a	CA - n/a
			U.S. - 120%	U.S. - 250%
			Int'l. - 300%	Int'l. - 300%

BART BERRYESSA EXTENSION



	TOTAL COST (\$ MILLIONS)	YEARS OF CONSTRUCTION	COST PER KM (\$MILLIONS/KM)	YEARS OF CONSTRUCTION PER KM (YR/KM)
Expected	CA - \$1,709	CA - 12.7	CA - \$105	CA - 0.8
	U.S. - \$2,240	U.S. - 7.7	U.S. - \$137	U.S. - 0.5
	Int'l. - \$1,409	Int'l. - 22.5	Int'l. - \$86	Int'l. - 1.4
Actual	\$2,330	8.3	\$143	0.5
Comparison to Baseline			CA - 140%	CA - 70%
			U.S. - 100%	U.S. - 119%
			Int'l. - 170%	Int'l. - 40%

BUILDING
MEGAPROJECT
MANAGEMENT
CAPACITY + EXPERTISE

- Regional collaboratives with permanent expertise
- Capacity aligned with scale of project
- Statewide/regional megaproject delivery teams



CLEE:

[HTTPS://WWW.LAW.BERKELEY.EDU/RESEARCH
/CLEE/](https://www.law.berkeley.edu/research/clee/)

REPORT:

[HTTPS://WWW.LAW.BERKELEY.EDU/RESEARCH
/CLEE/RESEARCH/CLIMATE/TRANSPORTATIO
N/ANALYZING-TRANSIT-PROJECT-COSTS-AND-
DELAYS](https://www.law.berkeley.edu/research/clee/research/climate/transportation/analyzing-transit-project-costs-and-delays)