

## NCITEC Project Summary

**Project Title:** **High Speed Rail & Freight Rail Partnerships: Hybrid Models and Their Development in the United States**

**Principal Investigators:**

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**Keywords:** High-speed rail, rail transit systems, intermodal transportation

**Funds Requested\_ \$50,000**

**Match: \$50000**

**Project Summary**

Many large cities in the United States are experiencing an explosion of interest in starting new or expanding existing rail transit systems. Currently there are 33 light-rail systems and eleven heavy rail systems in use across the country. In addition, Reconnecting America (2011) has identified a total of 643 potential new fixed-guideway projects in 106 metropolitan regions. Along with this new focus on building and expanding rail in the US there has also been an emphasis on transit-oriented development (TOD).

Recent legislation has created some funding that could lead to the expansion of the high speed rail in the US. California has passed legislation and there are other projects. However, funding for these projects is still an issue. Moreover, the existing right of way belongs to the private railroad companies. The present project will examine the historical factors and lessons learned both here and abroad that have contributed to the development of high speed rail. This project will identify and explore three strategic models of HSR development: 1) exclusive corridors (e.g., Japan), 2) hybrid networks—both national (e.g., France and Germany) and international (e.g., European Union), and 3) comprehensive national networks (e.g., China and Spain). Evaluations of these models will likely yield instructive to the development of HSR in the USA and a more comprehensive national network models. In addition, the role of public private partnerships will be discussed in order to examine alternative sources of funding and collaboration that could lead to the implementation of high-speed rail for the US. Finally, examining how high speed rail might impact the intermodal freight systems, affect energy consumption and also impact congestion will also be examined.