7.0 Public and Agency Involvement

Pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and CEQA, the Authority and FRA, as lead agencies, conducted a public and agency involvement program as part of the environmental review process. This chapter describes the public and agency involvement efforts conducted in the preparation of this Project EIR/EIS. The public and agency involvement program includes the following efforts:

- Public involvement and outreach informational materials including fact sheets; informational and scoping meetings, including town hall meetings, public and agency scoping meetings, meetings with individuals and groups, presentations; and briefings.
- Agency involvement agency scoping meetings, interagency working group, meetings with agency representatives, and other agency consultation.
- Notification and circulation of the Project EIR/EIS.

In addition, the Authority posts meeting notices and public documents on its web site, www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov. The site includes information about HSTs, the proposed HST route, the Authority's updated Final Business Plan, newsletters, press releases, board of directors meetings, recent developments, status of the environmental review process, Authority contact information, and related links. Authority Board of Directors meetings are open to the public, and one

California High-Speed Train Authority Web Site

Information on HST project activities, including meeting notices and publications, are available online at:

www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov

of the first items on the meeting agenda is to provide an opportunity for public comment on any public agenda item.

Throughout the environmental process, some of the most frequently asked questions related to the location of the HMF. Other frequently asked questions regarded the timing of the project; funding for constructing and operating the project, including which alignment would be selected; right-of-way acquisition; and potential impacts on agricultural land. Project staff addressed these and other questions, often referring to the environmental analysis already underway for the Project EIR/EIS and informing people of upcoming opportunities to make comments. Project staff also assessed impacts of other alternatives or changes that individuals and organizations had suggested. Outreach staff logged unanswered questions for direct follow-up with the individual or organization that had inquired or as items to be addressed at future meetings. Upon request, project staff offered to provide meetings and briefings.

7.1 Environmental Justice Outreach

The Authority conducted specific outreach efforts to low-income and minority populations and to communities of concern. The purpose of this outreach was to increase understanding of how the Project may potentially affect these populations. Environmental justice populations were identified by using 2007 data from the U.S. Census Bureau. The Merced to Fresno Section Community Impact Assessment Technical Report (Authority and FRA 2011a) contains a list of environmental justice-related interest groups that were engaged through outreach efforts. The Authority contacted groups with interest in environmental and economic social justice issues, such as the Great Valley Center and Merced Area Agency on Aging, and Latino and Laotian civic and group leaders. Materials for public meetings hosted by the Authority were translated into Spanish, and Spanish language interpreters were available at public information meetings. For additional information about environmental justice outreach to low-income and minority populations and communities of concern, please see Section 3.12, Socioeconomics, Communities, and Environmental Justice. Table 7-1, which is provided at the end of this chapter, lists the meetings held as part of the Authority's outreach effort, both during and after scoping.

7.2 Public and Agency Scoping

Public scoping is an important element in determining the focus and content of an EIR/EIS and provides an opportunity for public involvement. Scoping helps identify the range of actions, alternatives, environmental effects, and mitigation measures to be analyzed in depth. It also helps focus detailed study on those issues pertinent to the final decision on the proposed project.

7.2.1 Notices of Preparation, Notices of Intent, and Public Information Materials

On February 24, 2009, a Notice of Preparation was distributed to the State Clearinghouse; elected officials; local, regional, and state agencies; and the interested public. A Notice of Intent was published in the *Federal Register* on March 16, 2009, **notifying the public of FRA's**

Information from Scoping Meetings Available On-line

Scoping meeting materials available at www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov include the following:

- Merced to Fresno High-Speed Train Fact Sheet (English and Spanish)
- Scoping meeting notification postcard mailer (English and Spanish)
- Public Meeting Presentations
- · Agency Coordination Plan

intention to prepare an EIS for the Merced to Bakersfield section of the HST System (74 FR 11172, March 16, 2009). The Authority and FRA subsequently determined that the environmental impacts of the HST System from Merced to Bakersfield would be more appropriately assessed in two separate EIR/EIS documents, one from Merced to Fresno and another from Fresno to Bakersfield. A Notice of Preparation (SCH Number 2009091125) and Notice of Intent (74 FR 50868, October 1, 2009) for the Project EIR/EIS, amending the environmental process were issued on September 29, 2009, and October 1, 2009, respectively. Information from the scoping meetings is available online at www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov, including the Merced to Fresno High-Speed Train Fact Sheet (English and Spanish), scoping meeting notification postcard mailer (English and Spanish), public meeting presentations, and Agency Coordination Plan.

7.2.2 Scoping Meetings

The public is encouraged to provide input on the scope of an EIR/EIS throughout the environmental review process. As part of public outreach for the Merced to Fresno Section, three public and agency scoping meetings were held between March 18 and March 26, 2009, in Merced, Madera, and Fresno in the Merced to Fresno corridor. A total of 400 people attended the meetings as part of the HST project section that had been defined for the corridor between Merced and Bakersfield. The scoping meetings held in March 2009 for the Merced to Bakersfield Project EIR/EIS are an important component of the scoping process for both the state and federal environmental review.

All meetings were held between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. to allow representatives from agencies and the public the opportunity to participate. The format of the scoping meetings was an open house, which allowed people to arrive at any time to obtain information and provide input. Agendas, fact sheets, and scoping period comment sheets were distributed at the scoping meetings. The comments received at the meetings were documented and are summarized below and in the final *California HST Project EIR/EIS Merced to Fresno Section Scoping Report* (Authority and FRA 2010a). Approximately 2,980 people listed in the Merced to Bakersfield Section database received direct mail announcements of the public scoping meetings, which were also **announced on the Authority's** web site. Local newspapers published advertisements of the meetings, and local media outlets received press releases. Approximately 270 people participated in the formal scoping meetings in Merced, Madera, and Fresno. The places and dates of the public and agency scoping meetings are listed below:

- Merced: Merced Community Senior Center, March 18, 2009.
- Madera: Madera County Fairgrounds, March 19, 2009.
- Fresno: Fresno Convention Center Exhibit Hall, March 25, 2009.



In addition to these formal scoping meetings, public input on the scope of the environmental review was sought through other means, including presentations, briefings, and workshops. Table 7-1, provided at the end of this chapter, lists the meetings held as part of the **lead agencies'** outreach effort.

7.2.3 Scoping Comments

The scoping process helped the lead agencies identify general environmental issues to be addressed in the Project EIR/EIS. The Merced to Fresno Section scoping process identified issues with proposed HST alignments and stations; suggestions for new or modified alignments, HST stations, maintenance facilities; and areas of potential concern related to the proposed project. The NOP/NOI requested that that comments be submitted by October 30, 2009; extending the requested comment submittal date by 1 month. Most of the comments about station preferences supported HST stations in the downtown areas of Merced and Fresno. Concerns about proposed route alternatives consisted of potential community and natural resource impacts under the BNSF Alternative and potential community impacts in Madera and Chowchilla under the UPRR/SR 99 Alternative. The Merced City Manager stated a preference for the alternative along the UPRR in several public comments. The City of Madera and Madera County expressed concern over both of the programmatic route alternatives. The City of Chowchilla preferred the route along the BNSF Railway corridor. Other commenters suggested other routes to consider: a Sierra Foothills alternative parallel to SR 99 approximately 5 miles east of SR 99, and a western Madera alternative suggested by the City of Madera and Madera County that is similar to the alternative parallel to the UPPR except that it would deviate west around Chowchilla and Madera before returning to the UPRR corridor. Representatives of the Madera County Farm Bureau and Chowchilla Water District expressed concerns regarding any route west of SR 99. Most of those expressing an opinion supported the location of the HMF at Castle Commerce Center. Environmental and other issues mentioned in scoping comments included the following:

- Location of HST stations and alignment
- Location of the maintenance facility
- Air quality, congestion, and economic benefits
- Connections to local transit
- General support for the project
- Fast tracking of the project
- Agricultural impacts
- Natural resource impacts
- Noise impacts
- Cost and financing of the HST System

- Rail consolidation
- Power source and system requirements
- Economic growth
- Benefits and impacts on local businesses
- Employment opportunities
- Ridership estimates
- Property acquisition
- Displacement of people
- Potential devaluation of property
- Use of domestic labor and products for construction

The Merced to Fresno EIR/EIS Scoping Summary Report (Authority and FRA 2010a) is available on the **Authority's** web site.

7.3 Alternatives Analysis Process

The alternatives analysis process uses preliminary planning, environmental, and engineering information to identify feasible and practicable alternatives to carry forward for environmental review and preliminary engineering design in the Project EIR/EIS. The *Merced to Fresno Section High-Speed Train Project EIR/EIS Preliminary Alternatives Analysis Report* (Authority and FRA 2010b) and *Merced to Fresno Section Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report* (Authority and FRA 2010c) are intended to identify the range of potentially feasible alternatives to analyze in the Project EIR/EIS. The reports document the preliminary evaluation of alternatives, and indicate how each of the alternatives would meet the purpose of the project, how evaluation criteria were applied and used to determine which alternatives to carry forward for detailed environmental analysis, and which alternatives should not be carried forward for further analysis.



The analysis began with the corridors selected in the 2005 Statewide Program EIR/EIS process, as updated by the 2008 Bay Area to Central Valley Program EIR/EIS and Bay Area to Central Valley Revised Final Program EIR (Authority and FRA 2010d). Four primary alternatives were considered in the initial review of alternatives for the Merced to Fresno Section. These included the two preferred alternatives

identified in those EIR/EIS documents: a route parallel to the BNSF, and a route parallel to the UPRR. In addition, the analysis included consideration of the two previously described alternatives suggested during the scoping process: the Sierra Foothills Alternative parallel to SR 99 and the western Madera alternative that would avoid Chowchilla and Madera. The alternatives analysis process also included the study of two wye alternatives connecting the Merced to Fresno Section to the Bay Area, as suggested by the City of Chowchilla and Madera County, one north of SR 152 and a new alternative wye south of SR 152. Based on public and agency comments during scoping, various design options to

Alternatives Analysis Reports Available for Public Review

The Preliminary and Supplemental Alternative Analysis Reports, are available on-line at:

www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/lib_Me rced Fresno.aspx

the main north—south alternatives and six HST station options were considered and are detailed in the *Merced to Fresno Section Preliminary Alternatives Analysis Report* (Authority and FRA 2010b).

Public and agency comments received during the Project EIR/EIS scoping period and during ongoing interagency coordination meetings helped to identify the initial alternatives to carry forward for detailed evaluation. After initial project alternatives were identified, alignment plans, preliminary profile concepts, and cross-sections were developed and used for a detailed evaluation of the alternatives.

The Statewide Program EIR/EIS identified the Castle Commerce Center site as the preferred alternative for the location of the HMF. The Authority evaluated seven additional potential HMF sites identified through a Request for Expression of Interest process. Application of the alternatives analysis criteria, which were based on construction feasibility and community environmental impacts, resulted in the selection of five sites for evaluation in the Project EIR/EIS. The Authority presented the proposed HMF sites to agencies through the technical working group (TWG) meetings and to the public through public information meetings.

Public and agency input on issues to be studied, city and county land use and planning information, and input on the range of alternatives provided valuable information to assist in evaluating the alternatives. After the initial review of these alternatives, a series of TWG meetings were held to review results and gather input. An additional alternative suggested by the City of Chowchilla and Merced County through the TWG meeting process described below was included. This alternative would travel along the UPRR and SR 99 corridors and diverge to the east, north of the City of Chowchilla, joining the alternative along the BNSF near Le Grand and continuing along the BNSF Alternative to the proposed Downtown Fresno Station. Other agency comments resulted in adjustments to alignments and profiles of the alternatives to avoid and minimize environmental and community impacts. On December 3, 2009, the Authority Board of Directors received a briefing on the alternatives analysis. On April 8, 2010, project staff presented the Preliminary Alternatives Analysis Report, and the board identified the alternatives to carry forward for detailed evaluation: the UPRR/SR 99 Alternative and the BNSF Alternative.

The alternatives analysis process continued after the April 8, 2010, Authority Board of Directors meeting, with additional public and agency input, including TWG meetings, public information meetings, and individual meetings with local agencies and individuals. On August 5, 2010, the Authority reviewed the *Merced to Fresno Section Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report* (Authority and FRA 2010c), which resulted in the addition of the Hybrid Alternative, the West Chowchilla design option, and the HMFs to the alternatives selected for detailed evaluation. The HMF sites identified for detailed evaluation were the Castle Commerce Center, Harris-DeJager, Fagundes, Gordon-Shaw, and Kojima Development sites.

Following additional input, the May 2011 *Merced to Fresno Section Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report* was prepared. This update presented revisions to reduce some potential impacts such as visual, noise, and at-grade crossing safety issues. Revisions presented, including changing previously elevated tracks for the Merced and Fresno stations to at-grade and reducing the overall length of elevated structures where feasible, reduced the cost for construction.

7.3.1 Public Information Meetings and Materials during the Alternatives Analysis Process

Public information meetings were held during the alternatives analysis process to inform the public about the Merced to Fresno Section alternatives analysis recommendations. Various meeting formats, such as

open house, formal presentation, and question and comment sessions, were used to present information and provide opportunities for input by participants. Project information and announcements were posted on **the Authority's web site. See Table** 7-1 at the end of this chapter for a list of public meeting dates and topics.

The *Merced to Fresno Section Preliminary Alternatives Analysis Report* (Authority and FRA 2010b) was prepared to provide information to the public regarding the alternatives analysis process, the initial range of alternatives considered, and the criteria for evaluating those alternatives. Detailed information displays about the alternatives analysis process were also provided at public meetings. In addition to the public information meetings, another element of the outreach was to provide updates and presentations to clubs, organizations, farm bureaus, and business owners, and the cities and counties of Merced and Madera, to facilitate an inclusive and transparent process. Common

Public Meeting Materials Available On-line

Various publications and materials are available on-line at www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov.

Some key publications (in English and Spanish) include:

- Merced to Fresno High-Speed Train Fact Sheet
- Your Property, Your High-Speed Rail Project
- Permit to Enter Fact Sheet

comments included concerns about impacts on agricultural fields, effects on community resources, and the desire for alignment changes. Coordination with the San Jose to Merced Section led to a review of additional wye connections to that section's alternatives. Similar outreach occurred for the *Merced to Fresno Section Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report* (Authority and FRA 2010c).

7.3.2 Technical Working Group Meetings during the Alternatives Analysis Process

The Authority formed an agency TWG composed of senior staff from county and city public works and planning departments, redevelopment agencies, and economic development agencies. The purpose of the TWG was to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas during the course of the study. See Table 7-1, provided at the end of this chapter, for a list of TWG meeting dates and topics.

After the scoping period ended, the initial range of alternatives was developed. In June 2009, the Merced to Fresno Section alternatives were presented to the TWG in Merced, Madera, and Fresno. The TWG provided input on the alternatives and information about city and county land use, transportation and other planning projects, as well as updates to their boards or councils.

The Project team met with the TWG in Merced and Madera again to review the initial range of alternatives and receive more detailed information about transportation and land use development patterns that could be affected by the HST alternatives. The meeting included additional representatives from the Madera Irrigation District and Chowchilla Water District. The TWG members offered insights about important community features, proposed and additional infrastructure plans, and existing utilities. These insights resulted in adjustments in the position and profile of the alternatives to avoid and minimize impacts on community resources.

After the preliminary alternatives analysis findings were available, but before publication of the alternatives analysis report, the results and findings were communicated to the TWG, the public, and the Authority Board of Directors in December 2009. The Authority convened TWG meetings following Board action on both the Preliminary Alternatives Analysis Report and the Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report, in April 2010 and September 2010, respectively. The Authority also convened TWG meetings in advance of the May 2011 *Merced to Fresno Section Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report* (Authority and FRA 2011b).

7.3.3 Environmental Resource Agency Meetings during the Alternatives Analysis Process

The Authority and FRA consulted with environmental resource agencies, including the Environmental Agency TWG for the Merced to Fresno Section, during the alternatives analysis process. The meetings provided an overview and review of the alternatives analysis process and presented recommendations. Primary feedback included information about subsequent environmental permitting processes and site-specific knowledge. These meetings are discussed in Section 7.4.3 and listed in Table 7-1.

7.4 Development of the EIR/EIS

While developing the Project EIR/EIS, the Authority and FRA held meetings to consult with federal, state, and local agencies and meetings to provide project updates and obtain feedback from the public. The following subsections provide details of these activities.

7.4.1 Public Information Materials and Meetings

The Authority and FRA held informal and formal public meetings during preparation of the Project EIR/EIS. Various meeting formats, such as open house, formal presentation, and question and comment sessions, were used to present information and provide opportunities for input by participants. Project **information and announcements were posted on the Authority's web** site. Meetings are described in Section 7.3.1 and listed in Table 7-1 at the end of this chapter.

Public information meetings were held during preparation of the Project EIR/EIS to inform the public about the alternatives analysis recommendations for the Merced to Fresno Section and the status of the EIR/EIS preparation. In addition, these meetings provided information on various HST project components and served as forums for obtaining feedback. The public information meetings included brief presentations and project information materials (on display and in fact sheets); project staff were available to answer questions. Meetings were announced through direct mail to those on the project database, advertisements in local newspapers, and postings on the Authority's web sites (www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov). Various publications and materials were also made available at this web site, including the *Merced-Fresno High-Speed Train Fact Sheet*, Merced to Fresno *Frequently Asked Questions, Your Property, Your High Speed Rail Project*, and the *Permit to Enter* fact sheet.

7.4.2 Technical Working Group Meetings

The TWG continued to meet regularly through the Project EIR/EIS preparation process to facilitate information exchanges about modifications to alignments selected for analysis in the EIR/EIS, HST station and alignment design details, and identification of potential resource impacts and avoidance alternatives. Meetings are described in Section 7.3.2 and listed in Table 7-1 at the end of this chapter.

7.4.3 Agency Meetings and Consultation

The Authority and FRA consulted with cooperating or participating federal, state, and local agencies under NEPA and with trustee and responsible agencies under CEQA regarding specific resource areas associated with these agencies. To date, the Authority and FRA have held four statewide agency meetings. On June 13, 2007, and April 8, 2008, the Authority and FRA held statewide agency group meetings to discuss agency participation and coordination efforts for the project-level EIR/EIS documents for the HST Project. On July 29, 2009, the Authority and FRA held a statewide agency group meeting to provide an update on the project environmental review process, the status of project-level EIR/EIS reports, and project-level scoping comments from state and federal agencies. At this meeting, the Authority also requested agency review and comment on the Project EIR/EIS methodologies posted on the Authority web site. On December 13, 2010, the Authority held a statewide meeting to provide an update on the Central Valley sections of the HST System, including the Merced to Fresno Section. Federal and state representatives from the following agencies attended these meetings:



- Federal agencies:
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Bureau of Reclamation
 - Federal Highway Administration
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

State agencies:

- Air Resources Board
- Caltrans
- California Environmental Protection Agency
- Central Valley Flood Protection Board
- Coastal Commission
- Department of Conservation
- Department of Fish and Game
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Department of Water Resources
- Natural Resources Agency
- Office of Planning and Research/Strategic Growth Council
- Public Utilities Commission
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Transportation Commission
- State Lands Commission
- State Water Resources Control Board

One federal agency, USACE, was designated as a cooperating agency under NEPA for the preparation of the Project EIR/EIS. Numerous federal and state agencies were invited to become Participating Agencies under NEPA, and those agencies are listed in the *Draft Agency Coordination Plan: Merced to Fresno Section High-Speed Train Project EIR/EIS* (Authority 2009). The Authority hosted an Environmental Resource Agency meeting on October 8, 2009. Staff representatives of the various Participating Agencies were invited, including the FHWA, USFWS, EPA, NOAA, the Department of Health Services, Caltrans, California State Lands Commission, SJVAPCD, DWR, SWRCB, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, CDFG, the State Lands Commission, CVFPB, DOC, and California State Parks.

The biological survey methodology was discussed with USFWS, USACE, and the CDFG during a meeting on November 5, 2009. The Authority met with NOAA representatives to discuss fisheries on January 5, 2010. The Authority met with EPA, USACE, and USFWS representatives for purposes of NEPA and Section 404 (Clean Water Act) consultation on February 10, 2010. The Authority presented an overview of the project to EPA Region 9 to discuss agency coordination, environmental approval guidance, and the Authority's sustainability initiative on October 26, 2010. On January 29, 2009, the Authority met with SHPO staff to review the methodology of the analysis for the Project EIR/EIS documents, discuss the mitigation measures from the Statewide Program EIR/EIS (Authority and FRA 2005) and the Bay Area to Central Valley Program EIR/EIS (Authority and FRA 2008), and consider developing an MOA for the project sections. On June 29, 2009, the Authority met with SHPO staff to review the analysis methodology for all of the Project EIR/EIS documents, discuss the mitigation measures in the Statewide Program EIR/EIS and Bay Area to Central Valley Program EIR/EIS, and consider developing an MOA for the project sections. On July 29, 2009, the Authority again met with SHPO staff to define the area of potential effect for the archaeology and historical property evaluation, discuss the analysis methodology, and prepare a programmatic agreement (PA) for the overall HST Project. On February 3, 2010, the Authority and SHPO met to discuss revisions to the draft PA. On April 1, 2010, the FRA and ACHP met to discuss revisions to the draft PA, as well as an approach to tribal consultation.

The Authority and FRA initiated consultations with the Native American Heritage Commission for a search of their Sacred Lands file and lists of Native American contacts in April of 2010. The contacts for all 24 identified tribes were sent letters about the proposed project alternatives; the letters also requested



information about traditional cultural properties that could be affected by the project. Formal consultation between FRA and federally designated tribes began in February 2010. Project staff also contacted the tribes by telephone, first in April 2010 and again in May 2010. A representative of the Dumna Wo Wah Tribe spoke with project staff on May 20, 2010, to discuss the project and provide information on potential areas of concern. The Dumna Wo Wah Tribe representative also met with project staff on May 27, 2010. The Authority and FRA invited all tribes identified in the HST corridor to tribal coordination meetings on August 16, 2010 and June 1, 2011, to provide an overview of the project and receive input on culturally sensitive resources within the study area. A telephone conference for coordination between the FRA and federally recognized tribes was held in December 2010. A second telephone conference, also for coordination between the FRA and federally recognized tribes, was held in January 2011. In May of 2011, the FRA sent a letter to federally recognized tribes inviting representatives to a consultation meeting in the project area in July 1011.

A more thorough discussion of SHPO, ACHP, and Native American outreach efforts can be found in Section 3.17, Cultural Resources and Paleontological Resources.

7.5 Notification and Circulation of the EIR/EIS

Notice regarding the availability and the circulation of the Project EIR/EIS has been provided pursuant to NEPA and CEQA requirements. Notice included publication of an announcement in newspapers that have general circulation in areas potentially affected by the proposed project. The announcement indicated the availability of the Project EIR/EIS, the time and location of public hearings, and the period during which public comments will be received. A postcard announcement was mailed to those on the mailing list. A notice of completion (NOC) and notice of availability (NOA) were prepared to satisfy CEQA. The NOC notified the reviewers that that the Draft EIR/EIS was complete; and the NOA let public agencies and individuals know that the Draft EIR/EIS was available for review and comment. The Draft Project EIR/EIS, NOC, and NOA were submitted to the State Clearinghouse and to state agencies. The U.S. EPA published notice of availability for the Project EIR/EIS in the *Federal Register* on August 12, 2010.

The USACE published a notice of availability for the Project EIR/EIS on the district web site. The Project EIR/EIS is being circulated among federal, state, and local agencies, regional transportation agencies, and organizations and persons who have expressed an interest in the project. The Project EIR/EIS is available on the Authority's web site and on compact disc upon request. Public hearing dates and locations also are posted on the Authority's web site. A distribution list for the Project EIR/EIS is provided in Chapter 8, EIR/EIS Distribution.

Table 7-1Public and Agency Meetings

Public and Agency Meetings		
Organization/Individual	Date	Торіс
Environmental Resource Agencies	June 13, 2007	Statewide meeting to discuss resource agency participation and coordination efforts for the project-level EIR/EIS documents.
Environmental Resource Agencies	April 8, 2008	Statewide meeting to discuss resource agency participation and coordination efforts for the project-level EIR/EIS documents.
Madera County Staff	December 10, 2008	Merced to Fresno Section planning, upcoming scoping process.
City of Madera Staff	December 10, 2008	Merced to Fresno Section planning, upcoming scoping process.
City of Chowchilla Staff	December 11, 2008	Merced to Fresno Section planning, upcoming scoping process.
City of Merced Staff	December 11, 2008	Merced to Fresno Section planning, upcoming scoping process.
Merced County Staff	December 11, 2008	Merced to Fresno Section planning, upcoming scoping process.
Meeting with Fresno Mayor	January 13, 2009	HST in Fresno, invite to scoping meeting.
City of Fresno Staff	January 23, 2009	HST in Fresno, city/regional issues.
Centennial Corridor Open House — Caltrans/TRIP	January 27, 2009	HST in Central Valley, invite to scoping meeting.
Ahron Hakimi, Caltrans Corridor Project Manager, TRIP Office	January 29, 2009	HST in Central Valley, invite to scoping meeting.
State Historic Preservation Officer	January 29, 2009	Review Project EIR/EIS analysis methods, discuss programmatic mitigation measures, and consider preparing a Memorandum of Agreement.
Keith Bergthold, City of Fresno	February 6, 2009	HST station and maintenance facility criteria and moving forward on rail consolidation and HST, discuss scoping meetings.
Clark Thompson, Fresno COG, and Fresno Area Residents for Rail Consolidation (FARRC)	February 6, 2009	HST and rail consolidation, discuss scoping meetings.
City of Fresno Staff	February 6, 2009	Downtown station planning and alignments, discuss scoping meetings.
Fresno Business Council	February 10, 2009	California High-Speed Rail Authority PowerPoint presentation, invite to scoping meeting.
Cross Valley Rail Joint Powers Authority	February 12, 2009	California High-Speed Rail Authority PowerPoint presentation, invite to scoping meeting.
City of Chowchilla City Council	February 12, 2009	HST overview presentation, extend invitations to attend scoping meetings on March 18 and 19.
Frank Bigelow, Madera County Supervisor	February 19, 2009	HST in Madera, Central Valley, invite to scoping meeting.

Organization/Individual	Date	Topic
Sam Armentrout, Madera Mayor	February 24, 2009	HST in Madera, Central Valley, invite to scoping meeting.
Sons of Retirement	March 3, 2009	California High-Speed Rail Authority PowerPoint presentation.
Noah Lor, Merced City Council	March 4, 2009	HST in Merced, Central Valley.
Hub Walsh, Merced County Supervisor	March 4, 2009	HST in Merced, Central Valley.
Patricia Taylor, Madera County Transportation Commission	March 9, 2009	HST in Central Valley.
John Pedrozo, Merced County Supervisor	March 9, 2009	HST in Merced, Central Valley.
Vern Moss and Tom Wheeler, Madera County Supervisors	March 9, 2009	HST in Madera, Central Valley, invite to scoping meeting.
Robert Poythress, Madera City Councilman	March 9, 2009	HST in Madera, Central Valley.
Fresno County Board of Supervisors	March 10, 2009	California High-Speed Rail Authority PowerPoint presentation, invite to scoping meeting.
Cynthia Sterling, City of Fresno Council President	March 11, 2009	HST in Fresno, invite to scoping meeting.
Presentation to Merced Support Group	March 11, 2009	HST in Merced, Central Valley Group included the mayor of Merced, Merced County Supervisors, Laotian Community representatives, business community representatives, City of Merced staff, a representative from Senator Denham's office, a representative from Representative Cardoza's office, the president of Merced College, and the UC-Merced Vice Chancellor.
Madera County and City of Madera Staff	March 12, 2009	HST in Madera County, Central Valley.
Max Rodriguez, Madera County Supervisor	March 12, 2009	HST in Madera, invite to scoping meeting.
Madera County Resources Management Agency	March 12, 2009	HST in Madera, invite to scoping meeting.
Fresno City Council	March 17, 2009	California High-Speed Rail Authority PowerPoint presentation, invite to scoping meeting.
City of Chowchilla Mayor and Staff Meeting	March 19, 2009	HST in Central Valley.
Caltrans Statewide Environmental Managers Meeting	March 26, 2009	California High-Speed Rail Authority PowerPoint presentation.
Le Grand Planning Community Meeting	May 4, 2009	Review material presented at scoping meetings, provide overview of station criteria and gather feedback on the HST alternatives and station criteria.
Great Valley Center Conference	May 6-7, 2009	Statewide project information.



Organization/Individual	Date	Торіс
Atwater City Council Meeting	May 21, 2009	Review material presented at scoping meetings, provide overview of station criteria and gather feedback on the HST alternatives and station criteria.
Merced to Fresno Section Madera Technical Working Group Meeting	June 4, 2009	Project status, overview of alternatives, scoping comment summary, next steps.
Merced to Fresno Section Merced Technical Working Group Meeting	June 4, 2009	Project status, overview of alternatives, scoping comment summary, next steps.
SHPO	June 29, 2009	Review the analysis methods for project-level EIR/EIS documents, discuss programmatic mitigation measures, and consider preparing a Memorandum of Agreement.
Fresno Technical Advisory Group Meeting	July 1, 2009	Review HST project status and funding update, provide project scoping summary, overview and update of alternatives analysis process, review results from Visalia-Tulare-Hanford Station Study, a review current alignment and station alternatives, discuss next steps.
Merced to Fresno Section Madera Technical Working Group Meeting	July 15, 2009	Review of alternatives refinement to date, overview of station criteria, feedback on alternatives and station criteria.
Merced to Fresno Section Merced Technical Working Group Meeting	July 15, 2009	Review of alternatives refinement to date, overview of station criteria, feedback on alternatives and station criteria.
Environmental Resource Agencies	July 29, 2009	Statewide meeting to discuss the project-level environmental review process, the status of project-level EIR/EIS reports, and project-level scoping comments.
SHPO	August 4, 2009	Define the area of potential effect, discuss the analysis methodology, and prepare Programmatic Agreement.
SHPO	August 17, 2009	Review analytical methods and PA.
Merced Rotary Club	August 26, 2009	Provide an overview of the California HST Project.
San Jose to Merced Section: Technical Working Group Meeting	September 10, 2009	Provide an overview of the alternatives analysis process, review the alternatives analysis evaluation and recommendations for San Jose to Merced Section.
		Attendees include City of Merced, Merced County, and local agency staff.
San Jose to Merced Section: Environmental Agency Technical Working Group Meeting	September 10, 2009	Provide an overview of the alternatives analysis process, review the alternatives analysis evaluation and recommendations for San Jose to Merced Section.
Merced- Fresno and Fresno - Bakersfield Sections: Environmental Agency Technical Working Group Meeting	September 23, 2009	Provide an overview of the alternatives analysis process, review the alternatives analysis evaluation and recommendations for Merced to Fresno and Fresno to Bakersfield sections.



Organization/Individual	Date	Topic
San Jose to Merced Section: Merced Public Meeting	October 8, 2009	Summarize the comments received during scoping and discuss the additional alternatives developed in response which may be carried out for further detailed study.
Environmental Resource Agencies	October 8, 2009	Initial meeting with environmental resource agencies for Merced to Fresno HST Project.
Caltrans Coordination Meeting	October 15, 2009	Initiate coordination and communication between project team and Caltrans Central Region (including District 6 and District 10 staff).
Caltrans District 6 Alignment Coordination Meeting	October 23, 2009	Discuss Caltrans vision for SR 99 improvements.
Chowchilla and Madera Coordination Meeting	October 29, 2009	Discuss draft alternative analysis results
USFWS, USACE, and CDFG	November 5, 2009	Technical meeting to discuss biological resource survey methods.
Authority Board Meeting	December 3, 2009	Alternatives analysis briefing.
Merced to Fresno Section and San Jose to Merced Section Joint Technical Working Group Meeting, Merced	December 14, 2009	Provide an overview of alternatives analysis process, review alternatives analysis evaluation and recommendations for San Jose to Merced and Merced to Fresno sections.
Merced to Fresno Section and San Jose to Merced Section Joint Participating Local and Transportation Agencies Meeting, Merced	December 14, 2009	Provide an overview of alternatives analysis process, review alternatives analysis evaluation and recommendations for San Jose to Merced and Merced to Fresno sections.
Merced to Fresno and San Jose to Merced Section Joint Participating Local and Transportation Agencies Meeting, Madera	December 14, 2009	Provide an overview of alternatives analysis process, review alternatives analysis evaluation and recommendations for Merced to Fresno Section.
Madera Public Information Meeting	December 17, 2009	Provide an overview of the alternatives analysis process, review the alternatives analysis evaluation and recommendations for San Jose to Merced and Merced to Fresno sections, gather feedback. Spanish interpreters provided.
Merced Public Information Meeting (Joint Meeting for Merced to Fresno and San Jose to Merced Sections)	December 17, 2009	Provide an overview of the alternatives analysis process, review the alternatives analysis evaluation and recommendations for San Jose to Merced and Merced to Fresno sections, gather feedback. Spanish interpreters provided.
DOC	January 4, 2010	Provide an overview of the alternatives analysis process.
NMFS	January 5, 2010	Discuss fisheries issues.
Merced County Board of Supervisors	January 12, 2010	Provide an overview of the alternatives analysis process, review the alternatives analysis evaluation and recommendations for Merced to Fresno Section, gather feedback.



Organization/Individual	Date	Торіс
Merced Council of Governments Technical Review Committee	January 13, 2010	Provide an overview of the alternatives analysis process, review the alternatives analysis evaluation and recommendations for Merced to Fresno Section, gather feedback.
Fresno to Bakersfield Public Information Meeting, Fresno (Merced to Fresno Section team supporting)	January 19, 2010	Provide an overview of the alternatives analysis process, review the alternatives analysis evaluation and recommendations for Fresno to Bakersfield Section, gather feedback.
Merced to Sacramento Section Scoping Meeting (Merced to Fresno Section team supporting)	January 21, 2010	Scoping for the Merced to Sacramento Section. Merced to Fresno Section team available with graphics to provide information on the Merced to Fresno Section and respond to questions. Spanish interpreters provided.
SHPO	January 21, 2010	Discuss draft PA.
SHPO	February 3, 2010	Discuss SHPO edits to PA.
EPA, USACE, and USFWS	February 10, 2010	Discuss compliance process for Clean Water Act, Section 404.
Chowchilla Mayor and Officials Meeting	February 11, 2010	Provide an overview of the alternatives analysis process, review the alternatives analysis evaluation and recommendations for Merced to Fresno Section, gather feedback.
Chowchilla Mayor and Officials Meeting	February 18, 2010	Provide an overview of the alternatives analysis process, review the alternatives analysis evaluation and recommendations for Merced to Fresno Section, gather feedback.
Madera City Council Meeting	March 2, 2010	Provide an overview of the alternatives analysis process, review the alternatives analysis evaluation and recommendations for Merced to Fresno Section, gather feedback.
Merced County Board of Supervisor Meeting	March 2, 2010	Provide an overview of the alternatives analysis process, review the alternatives analysis evaluation and recommendations for Merced to Fresno Section, gather feedback.
Chowchilla Officials Meeting	March 5, 2010	Provide requested additional information per their feedback on the overview of the alternatives analysis process, review the alternatives analysis evaluation and recommendations for Merced to Fresno Section, gather new feedback.
CVFPB	March 8, 2010	Discuss applicability of flood protection regulations.
EPA	March 11, 2010	Discuss alternatives analysis process.
Fresno to Bakersfield Section Public Information Meeting (Merced to Fresno Section team supporting)	March 16, 2010	Provide information about the alternatives for the north Fresno section of the Merced to Fresno Section and its relationship to the Fresno to Bakersfield Section.



Organization/Individual	Date	Торіс
Merced County Farm Bureau	March 30, 2010	Provide an overview of the alternatives analysis process, review the alternatives analysis evaluation and recommendations for Merced to Fresno Section, gather feedback.
John Pedrozo, Merced County Supervisor	March 30, 2010	Project update, alternatives analysis process and recommendations.
Merced Officials Meeting	March 30, 2010	Provide an overview of the alternatives analysis process, review the alternatives analysis evaluation and recommendations for Merced to Fresno Section, gather feedback.
ACHP	April 1, 2010	Review Section 106 process for HST projects.
City of Merced Downtown Development Workshop (Merced to Fresno Section team supporting)	April 2, 2010	Discuss future downtown development. Merced to Fresno Section team provided information about the station design in Downtown Merced.
Authority Board Meeting	April 8, 2010	Present Preliminary Alternatives Analysis Report and selection of alternatives to move forward for detailed environmental review.
Planada Community Advisory Council	April 8, 2010	Provide information about alternatives moving forward for detailed environmental review.
USACE, FHWA, USFWS, NMFS, State Lands Commission, CVFPB, SWRCB, RWQCB, DOC, and CDFG	April 21, 2010	Discuss coordination and permitting for water crossings.
Merced to Fresno Section Madera Technical Working Group	April 27, 2010	Provide new station design information, review materials presented at the April 8, 2010, Authority board meeting and gather feedback on wye options and HMF sites.
Merced to Fresno Section Merced Technical Working Group	April 27, 2010	Provide new station design information, review materials presented at the April 8, 2010, Authority board meeting and gather feedback on wye options and HMF sites.
Merced Public Information Meeting	April 28, 2010	Provide information about the April 8, 2010, Authority board meetings and gather feedback on wye options and HMF site options. Spanish interpreters provided.
Madera Public Information Meeting	April 29, 2009	Provide information about the April 8, 2010, Authority board meetings and gather feedback on wye options and HMF site options. Spanish interpreters provided.
Chowchilla Mayor and Officials Meeting	May 3, 2010	Provide requested additional information regarding alternatives analysis process, review alternatives analysis evaluation and recommendations, gather feedback.
Madera Multicultural Outreach — Hosted by the Madera County Health Department	May 12, 2010	Outreach to the Hispanic community in Madera to provide information about project status and gather feedback. Spanish interpreters provided.
City of Chowchilla Staff	May 13, 2010	Discuss engineering issues for alternatives.



Organization/Individual	Date	Topic
Chowchilla Mayor and Officials Meeting	May 24, 2010	Provide additional information requested in previous feedback on overview of alternatives analysis process, review evaluation and recommendations, receive additional feedback.
City of Chowchilla City Council Meeting	May 24, 2010	Provide information and answer questions about alignments moving forward for detailed environmental review.
Dumna Wo Wah Tribe	May 27, 2010	Discuss the HST project and provide information on potential areas of concern.
Le Grand, Plainsburg, and Planada Community Meeting (Merced to Fresno Section supporting)	June 1, 2010	Provide information, maps, and answer questions about the alignments moving forward for detailed environmental review.
USACE	June 2, 2010	Wetland delineation and permitting coordination.
CDFG	June 7, 2010	Permitting coordination.
USFWS	June 9, 2010	Permitting coordination.
City of Fresno Public Works Coordination Meeting	June 11, 2010	Coordinate HST planning efforts that interface with City of Fresno infrastructure.
Madera County Board of Supervisors	June 15, 2010	Provide information about the April 8, 2010, Authority board meeting and gather feedback on wye options and HMF site options.
Madera County Farm Bureau	June 15, 2010	Provide information about the April 8, 2010, Authority board meeting and gather feedback on wye options and HMF site options.
San Jose to Merced Los Banos Public Information Meeting (Merced to Fresno Section supporting)	June 15, 2010	Provide information and answer questions about alignments moving forward for detailed environmental review.
Ahmed Brothers	June 16, 2010	Discuss property conflicts.
San Jose to Merced Section Merced Technical Working Group (Merced to Fresno Section supporting)	June 17, 2010	Provide information and answer questions about alignments moving forward for detailed environmental review.
Chowchilla business owner	June 17, 2010	Provide information regarding alignments moving forward for detailed environmental review and business concerns.
San Jose to Merced Section Dos Palos Public Information Meeting (Merced to Fresno Section supporting)	June 17, 2010	Provide information and answer questions about alignments moving forward for detailed environmental review.
CDFG	June 28, 2010	Camp Pashayan regulatory status.
Ahmed Brothers	July 15, 2010	Discuss property conflicts.
San Jose to Merced Section Merced Public Information Meeting (Merced to Fresno Section supporting)	July 15, 2010	Provide information and answer questions about alignments moving forward for detailed environmental review.



Organization/Individual	Date	Торіс
Merced Officials Meeting	July 16, 2010	Provide information about the new Chowchilla design option, gather feedback.
Madera Board of Supervisors Meeting	July 20, 2010	Provide information about the new Chowchilla design option, gather feedback.
Chowchilla Mayor and Officials Meeting	July 20, 2010	Provide information about the new Chowchilla design option, gather feedback.
Fairmead Public Information Meeting	July 20, 2010	Provide information about the April 8, 2010, Authority board meeting and gather feedback on wye options, new Chowchilla design option, and HMF site options.
Merced County Farm Bureau	July 22, 2010	Provide information about the new Chowchilla design option, gather feedback.
Chowchilla Public Information Meeting	July 22, 2010	Provide information about the April 8, 2010, Authority board meeting and gather feedback on wye options, new Chowchilla design option, and HMF site options.
Merced County Supervisor Pedrozo and the Owner of Fagundes HMF Site	July 28, 2010	Provide information about the new Chowchilla design option and gather feedback, tour of farmlands around the West Chowchilla design option.
Authority Board Meeting	August 5, 2010	Present Supplemental Alternative Analysis Report, and select alternatives to be carried forward for detailed analysis.
Tour of BNSF Alternative in Le Grand with Merced County Supervisor Pedrozo	August 13, 2010	Provide information about the April 8, 2010, Authority board meeting and gather feedback on BNSF Alternative, including the Le Grand design options.
Azteca Milling	August 16, 2010	Provide information about the alternatives and gather feedback, tour of alignments.
Tribal Consultation Meeting	August 16, 2010	Provide information about the April 8, 2010, Supplemental Alignment Analysis Report; gather feedback on wye options, new Chowchilla design option, and HMF site options.
Merced Family Lao Community	August 25, 2010	Provide information about the HST project and the Merced to Fresno Section alternatives.
Save Our Heritage	September 15, 2010	Provide information about the HST project and the Merced to Fresno Section alternatives.
Fagundes Brothers & Supervisor Pedrozo	September 20, 2010	Tour the dairy and farm land potentially impacted by alignment alternatives. Listen to concerns.
Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy Meeting (with Fresno to Bakersfield and San Jose to Merced section project teams)	September 23, 2010	Discuss survey results and mitigation approaches with environmental resource agencies.
Merced to Fresno Section Madera Technical Working Group	September 23, 2010	Provide information from Authority board meeting, including refined alternatives carried forward, HMF alternatives carried forward, and design options.
Merced to Fresno Section Merced Technical Working Group	September 23, 2010	Provide information from Authority board meeting, including refined alternatives carried forward, HMF alternatives carried forward, and design options.



Organization/Individual	Date	Торіс
Merced to Fresno Section Madera Public Information Meeting	September 28, 2010	Present results of the August 5, 2010, Authority Board meeting on the <i>Merced to Fresno Section Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report</i> and alternatives carried forward.
Yosemite Farm Credit	October 5, 2010	Provide information from Authority board meeting, including refined alternatives carried forward, HMF alternatives carried forward, and design options.
Merced to Fresno Section Merced Public Information Meeting	October 5, 2010	Present results of the August 5, 2010, Authority board meeting on the <i>Merced to Fresno Section Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report</i> and alternatives carried forward.
EPA Region 9	October 26, 2010	Discuss agency coordination, environmental approval guidance, and sustainability.
Central Valley Agricultural Meeting	October 28, 2010	Authority meeting with members of agricultural leadership.
City of Chowchilla	December 9, 2010	Road modifications and visual effects in and near Chowchilla.
Environmental Resource Agencies	December 13, 2010	Statewide meeting to discuss status of Central Valley sections of the HST System.
Federally Recognized Native American Tribes	December 15, 2010	Coordination between the FRA and federally recognized Native American Tribes.
Public Record Act Request, City of Madera	December 17, 2010	Discuss type of information and timeline for delivery of requested information.
USACE and CVFPB	February 2, 2011	Review design requirements and data needs.
Environmental Resource Agencies	February 7, 2011	Statewide permitting workshop to discuss permit processes with environmental resource agencies.
DOC	February 24, 2011	Discuss mitigation strategies and ratios.
Caltrans District 6 (Fresno)	March 4, 2011	Caltrans Project Report (General Process of Review Discussion).
City of Fresno	March 16, 2011	Revised 15% at-grade design.
Caltrans District 6 (Fresno)	March 16, 2011	Caltrans Project Report (Fresno County).
Mitigation Measures Meeting – Madera	March 22, 2011	Review potential impacts and discuss conceptual mitigation measures, including noise, visual impacts, safety issues, road closures, etc.
Preserve Our Heritage	March 22, 2011	Discuss current alignments and questions.
Caltrans District 6 (Fresno)	March 24, 2011	Caltrans Project Report (Madera County).
Caltrans District 10 (Stockton)	March 29, 2011	Caltrans Project Report (Merced County).
EPA and USACE	April 6, 2011	Discuss Checkpoint B.
City of Merced Staff	April 14, 2011	Discuss location of station south of Martin Luther King Boulevard.
City of Madera	April 20, 2011	Discuss methodology, potential impacts, and standard mitigation measures for noise and visual resources associated with the City of Madera.



Organization/Individual	Date	Торіс
Merced to Fresno Section Madera TWG	April 21, 2011	Inform TWG participants of recent design changes in advance of May 5, 2011, Authority Board of Directors meeting.
Merced to Fresno Section Madera TWG	April 21, 2011	Inform TWG participants of recent design changes in advance of May 5, 2011, Authority Board of Directors meeting.
EPA, USFWS, USACE, NMFS	April 25, 2011	Discuss environmental process and permit scheduling relevant to the Merced to Fresno and Fresno to Bakersfield sections.
Fresno to Bakersfield Section Fresno Technical Working Group (Merced to Fresno Section Supporting)	April 26, 2011	Inform TWG participants of recent design changes in advance of May 5, 2011, Authority Board of Directors meeting.
Authority Board Meeting	May 5, 2011	Present Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report on the optimized alignments and the alignment profile to Downtown Fresno Station for selection of alternatives to move forward for detailed environmental review.
California Wildlife Conservation Board	May 12, 2011	Discuss options for how the Wildlife Conservation Board could help with mitigation requirements.
Fresno Public Information Meeting	May 17, 2011	Provide materials presented at the May 5, 2011, Authority Board Meeting on the optimized alignments and the alignment profile to Downtown Fresno Station.
State Water Resources Control Board	May 17, 2011	Discuss Clean Water Act Section 401 and 402 permit requirements.
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, and the California Air Resources Board	May 19, 2011	Air Quality analysis, methodology, and preliminary results.
SHPO	May 19, 2011	Finalize PA.
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation	May 24, 2011	Potential effects on Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation facilities and mitigation measures
Dr. Chester University of California – Berkeley	May 27, 2011	Discuss potential air quality impacts and energy.
Merced Public Information Meeting	June 1, 2011	Provide materials presented at the May 5, 2011, Authority Board Meeting on the optimized alignments moving forward for detailed environmental review.
Tribal Meeting	June 1, 2011	Project update, regulatory overview.
Madera Public Information Meeting	June 2, 2011	Provide materials presented at the May 5, 2011, Authority Board Meeting on the optimized alignments moving forward for detailed environmental review.
DWR and USBR	June 6, 2011	Coordination regarding the San Joaquin River Restoration Program.
State Lands Commission	June 10, 2011	Coordination for potential impacts on state lands.
Los Banos Public Information Meeting (San Jose-Merced hosted)	June 13, 2011	Provide information and maps, and answer questions about the alignments moving forward for detailed environmental review.



Organization/Individual	Date	Topic
USFWS and NMFS	June 14, 20111	Endangered Species Act pre-application meeting.
Madera County	June 29, 2011	Discuss potential impacts and mitigation.
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation	June 29, 2011	Discuss potential impacts and mitigation involving the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation property/facilities.
California Prison Industries Authority	July 5, 2011	Discuss potential impacts and mitigation involving the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation property/facilities.
Madera Irrigation District	July 6, 2011	Discuss potential impacts on Madera Irrigation District property/facilities.
City of Merced	July 15, 2011	Discuss potential impacts and mitigation.
Merced County Transportation	July 15, 2011	Discuss potential impacts and mitigation.
Merced Council of Governments	July 15, 2011	Discuss potential impacts and mitigation.

^a The Visalia-Tulare-Hanford Station Study refers to a station feasibility study conducted for the Fresno to Palmdale section of the HST System (Authority 2007).