

HIGH SPEED RAIL

EDR Group is a national leader in the application of economic impact and benefit analysis for intercity rail services, particularly existing and proposed high speed rail service. This includes impacts of station area development and broader economic development implications for cities and regions.

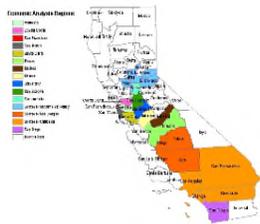
Impact of High Speed on Cities and Metropolitan Areas. For the US Conference of Mayors, EDR Group assessed economic development impacts and opportunities associated with proposed high speed rail (HSR) service on Los Angeles, Chicago, Orlando and Albany, NY. EDR Group surveyed business, community and government leaders, and identified local development efforts affected by HSR, as well as feeder networks and airport connections. The study identified ways in which local tourism patterns, connections between technology clusters and business relationships can benefit from HSR.



Midwest High Speed Rail. For the Midwest High Speed Rail Association, EDR Group (under subcontract to AECOM) provided a metropolitan-level assessment of the land use, economic and infrastructure requirements for developing a regional high speed rail system in the Midwest. The study examined potential benefits and impacts associated with a four-spoke network, with Chicago at the center of corridors connecting to Cleveland/Detroit, Cincinnati, St. Louis and Minneapolis-St. Paul. It also identified the types of infrastructure investments, rail oriented development potential, and supportive transportation services required to achieve integrated transportation systems in metropolitan centers.



California High Speed Rail: Economic Growth Impact Study for SF to Central Valley. For the California High-Speed Rail Authority, EDR Group (under subcontract to Cambridge Systematics) conducted economic impact analysis for the San Francisco Bay Area to Central Valley high-speed rail segment. As part of the Tier 2 EIR, the analysis examined economic impacts at a county level for the Alameda and Merced alignments. The analysis included evaluation of business attraction impacts associated with expanding labor, business travel and tourism markets, as well including more standard economic impacts of time and cost savings.



New York Empire Corridor: Economic Impacts of High-Speed Services. For NY State DOT, EDR Group (under subcontract to HNTB) prepared an economic impact analysis and benefit cost assessment that evaluate improved passenger rail services along the Empire Corridor - a 465-mile rail corridor connecting New York City with Buffalo and Niagara Falls, NY. This evaluation focused on effects from three perspectives: 1) Economic Impacts –market access and economic productivity improvements; 2) Benefit-Cost Analysis –covering cost, mode shift, safety, emissions, and productivity effects; and 3) Station Area Development.

