

EDITORIAL

October 7, 2008

Give Proposition 1A a yes vote Nov. 4 for better, speedier public transportation.

Proposition 1A: Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act

You might have noticed this in a supplemental voter pamphlet last week.

This measure would start the ball rolling on a high-speed train system in California. It would sell \$9.95 billion in general obligation bonds to plan and partially fund construction of an electric-powered train and make capital improvements to state and local rail services.

We're behind this all the way.

As we've said before, the 200 mph bullet train would provide a new transportation option that reduces greenhouse gases and dependence on foreign oil for California's growing population. It's cheaper than building new freeways and airports and gives long-distance commuters a safe alternative to driving cars, much like the trains in Europe and Japan.

With this amendment to Proposition 1, the measure also allows the Altamont corridor to receive \$11 million from the state's high-speed rail bond measure. That money could improve the Altamont Commuter Express tracks and lead to the building of a separate rail line across the Altamont.

Yes on Proposition 1A!