



Our economy faces many challenges. Among them is the need to create more jobs, increase our energy independence and become a more sustainable nation. Man cannot live by bread alone. High-speed rail is the missing ingredient in America's recipe for a national transportation network. Without it, the whole system is less effective.



HNTB Expert:

Peter Gertler, AICP

Chairman, High-Speed Rail Services
HNTB Corporation

Peter Gertler has 22 years of experience in public transportation and program management across the United States and around the world. Since joining the firm in 2004, Gertler has worked as a project manager, technical lead, West Division sales officer and is currently the chairman of HNTB's high-speed rail services.

With interest in high-speed rail spurred by the 2009 stimulus package, the United States is at the start of an unparalleled undertaking that will significantly alter the way Americans travel and commute. Under Gertler's leadership, HNTB has become a leader in that undertaking as one of the top firms bringing high-speed rail to America - most recently serving as the project manager for the California High-Speed Rail Engineering and Environmental Studies project (Los Angeles to San Diego Corridor, Sacramento, Calif.)

Throughout his career, Gertler has focused on developing and implementing public transportation alternatives through comprehensive and innovative technical and analytical means, as well as through broad-based community and stakeholder outreach.

His skills span strategy development of practical applications and system operation, which he has applied to projects throughout the U.S. including:

- **Dumbarton Rail Corridor Study**—San Mateo, Calif. (Project Manager)
- **BART Strategic Plan**—Oakland, Calif. (Transportation Planner)

His international projects include:

- **Railtrack, London**—\$87 billion proposed enhancement plan (Strategic Planning Coordinator)
- **Dublin International Airport Transport Study**—Dublin, Ireland (Project Director)
- **Johannesburg Metropolitan Area Airport Transport Linkages Study**—Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa (on-site Project Manager for the feasibility study)

Journalists can turn to Gertler for insights related to:

America needs a high-speed rail program.

A high-speed rail program is the lynchpin missing from our national transportation system and without it our whole system is less effective. With such a program in place, America can protect its status as a mobility super power, plus realize benefits that will help the nation in a variety of ways, including the creation of thousands of jobs, promotion of a healthier environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reduction of air pollution, saving energy and helping us achieve energy security. Other nations are enjoying the many benefits that result from moving people and products faster and more effectively on high-speed rail. It is time for America to get on board.

America's transportation network needs balance. As a nation, we can't possibly build enough roadways to accommodate the needs of a growing population. An effective, efficient surface transportation system for America must include public transit in all of its forms – light rail, bus rapid transit and high-speed rail.

Funding for public transit. Public transit's full potential has not been realized because we have relied primarily on interstate highways for the past 50 years. America needs a funding system that will support an investment in public transit as well as our essential highways.

Positive Train Control: the cornerstone of a safer railway system in America

The Federal Railroad Administration is moving forward with new rules that prescribe how railroads should implement Positive Train Control systems to prevent train-to-train collisions and create a safer national railway system. PTC technology is capable of automatically controlling train speeds and movement. For example, it can bring a train to a stop before it passes a red signal to avert a potential collision. PTC systems also can prevent over-speed derailments and unauthorized incursions by a train into work zones. By federal law, PTC must be deployed on all Class I and passenger railroads by the end of 2015.

Education:

- Master of Science, 1987, Transportation, University of Pennsylvania
- Master of Arts, 1987, City Planning, University of Pennsylvania
- Bachelor of Science, 1982, Political Economy, University of California at Berkley

Professional Affiliations:

- Member – American Public Transportation Association
- Member – APTA Executive Board of the High-Speed and Intercity Rail Committee
- Member – American Road and Transportation Builders Association High-Speed Rail Development Council
- Member – American Planning Association
- Member – American Institute of Certified Planners
- Member – Transportation Research Board
- President Emeritus and Executive Board Member – Association for California High-Speed Rail
- Board of Directors – International Air Rail Organization

SELECT MEDIA AND APPEARANCES

- Fox Business, June 16, 2009 – Interviewed on "Money for Breakfast"
- Travel Talk Radio, May 31, 2009 – Interviewed for "Train of Thought"
- Forbes.com, May 5, 2009 – Guest column, "Trains and the City"
- *Engineering News-Record*, Sept. 7, 2009 – Quoted in article, "States Vying for First ARRA Rail Grants"

To schedule an interview with Peter Gertler and for more information, contact:

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