

REMARKS FOR KAREN RAE
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WORKSHOP FOR HIGH-SPEED RAIL IN JAPAN
WASHINGTON, DC
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- Good morning, and welcome to this exciting and informative presentation.
- As Japan celebrates the 45th anniversary of the Shinkansen – or as we commonly refer to it as the bullet train – we are very fortunate to host a delegation from Japan’s MLIT today who have kindly offered to come here and share their experiences in implementing their high-speed rail system both on the development side, and the safety side.
- The timing of this event couldn’t be better, as just last Thursday President Obama, Vice President Biden, and Secretary LaHood outlined the Administration’s vision to develop high-speed in the United States.
- For those who may not have seen President Obama’s announcement, we have some video highlights.
- (Show video)
- The \$8 billion in the Recovery Act and the \$5 billion in the President’s budget signal a new chapter in American public transportation, and will change the way we travel.
- Obviously, we will be looking for projects that address President Obama’s and DOT’s strategic goals of:
 - Ensuring safe and efficient transportation choices.
 - Building a foundation for economic competitiveness.
 - Promoting energy efficiency and environmental quality, and

- Supporting interconnected, livable communities.
- For the first time, we're going to integrate passenger rail corridors with the rest of our transportation network -- and bring rail into the 21st century.
- Our vision is to build corridors of 100 – 600 miles on a regional basis, connecting cities so that one day, millions of travelers will have seamless access to airports, light rail stations, and busy urban centers.
- And we'll work closely with Congress to be sure that passenger rail is included in our plans for making our communities more livable and sustainable.
- The demand is there for rail travel. We've seen it in Amtrak ridership over the past few years, and there is consistent support from state and local officials, rail advocacy groups, travel professionals, newspaper editorials, and individual citizens.
- I know we have the drive, resources and capability to accomplish President Obama's vision.
- Just look at our interstate highway system.
- Our interstate highway system has long been the envy of the world. But when it comes to modern high-speed rail – we've had to look elsewhere for success.
- It's time to turn that around.
- It's time to give more Americans the chance to enjoy the convenience and connections provided by high-speed and inter-city passenger rail.
- These systems reduce highway and airport congestion, save energy, improve the environment and help to revitalize urban areas.
- We extend a warm welcome to you, Mr. Tamura, and greatly appreciate and welcome our colleagues from Japan who have come here today to share their experiences in development of their high-speed rail system.
- FRA traditionally is a safety agency, and I know we are anxious to hear more about the standards used in Japan that keep passengers and crews safe. Japan's record of no fatalities in the operation of your high-speed rail system is one to be admired.
- Thank you, we look forward to hearing your presentations.