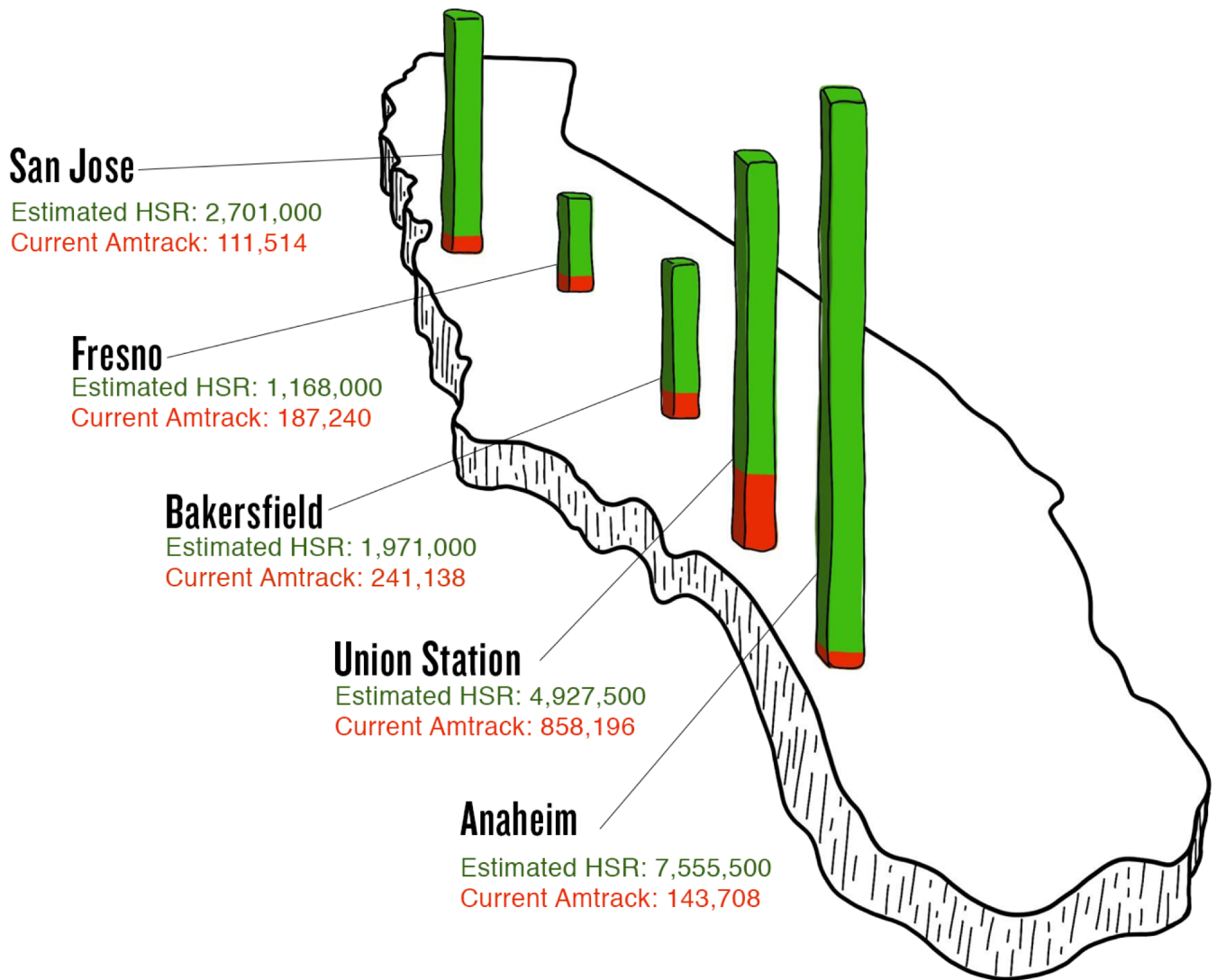


California High Speed Rail Projections: Are they for real?

The High Speed Rail's (HSR) official projections portray a thriving system far beyond today's Amtrak ridership.



HSR Authority based its projections these assumptions:

1. Flight reliability will remain at 2005 levels, with about 95% of flights arriving within an hour of schedule.
2. Population is forecast to grow to 48 million, a 42% increase from 2000, and employment will grow by about 51%.
3. Interregional travel by 65% to 911 billion trips a year.
4. Air travel will take about the same amount of time and be as frequent as in 2005.
5. Wait time for trains will be in line with the current 15 minutes, with no airport- style security measures.

Can we base a \$100 billion project off of these assumptions?