

# Berlin, Beijing, Bakersfield: Station Design Insights for U.S. Rail

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March 5, 2025 | 12:00-1:00 p.m. (PT)





# Overview

- **Key takeaways from the past three webinars:**
  - France
  - Spain
  - Germany
  - China
- **Relevance for the U.S. + the changing landscape for passenger rail in the U.S.**
- **Case study: Brightline**
  - Success factors
  - Broader applicability of concept?
  - Ongoing role of the public sector
- **Discussion**



Train stations are always part of larger development and transport schemes. They straddle the local, regional, and even national scales.



Bordeaux St. Jean / Euratlantique (France)



Train stations serve both the front doors of cities and as primary economic drivers for them.



Paris Gare St. Lazare (France)



Building the political and financial support necessary for developing a national high-speed rail network in Spain required first delivering a successful proof-of-concept.

Madrid – Seville HSR Line (Spain)





One of the largest urban transformation projects in Europe, the redesigned Chamartin Station will bridge a void in urban fabric created by the track infrastructure. The project includes 17 million SF of commercial space and 10,500 housing units.

Madrid Chamartin (Spain)



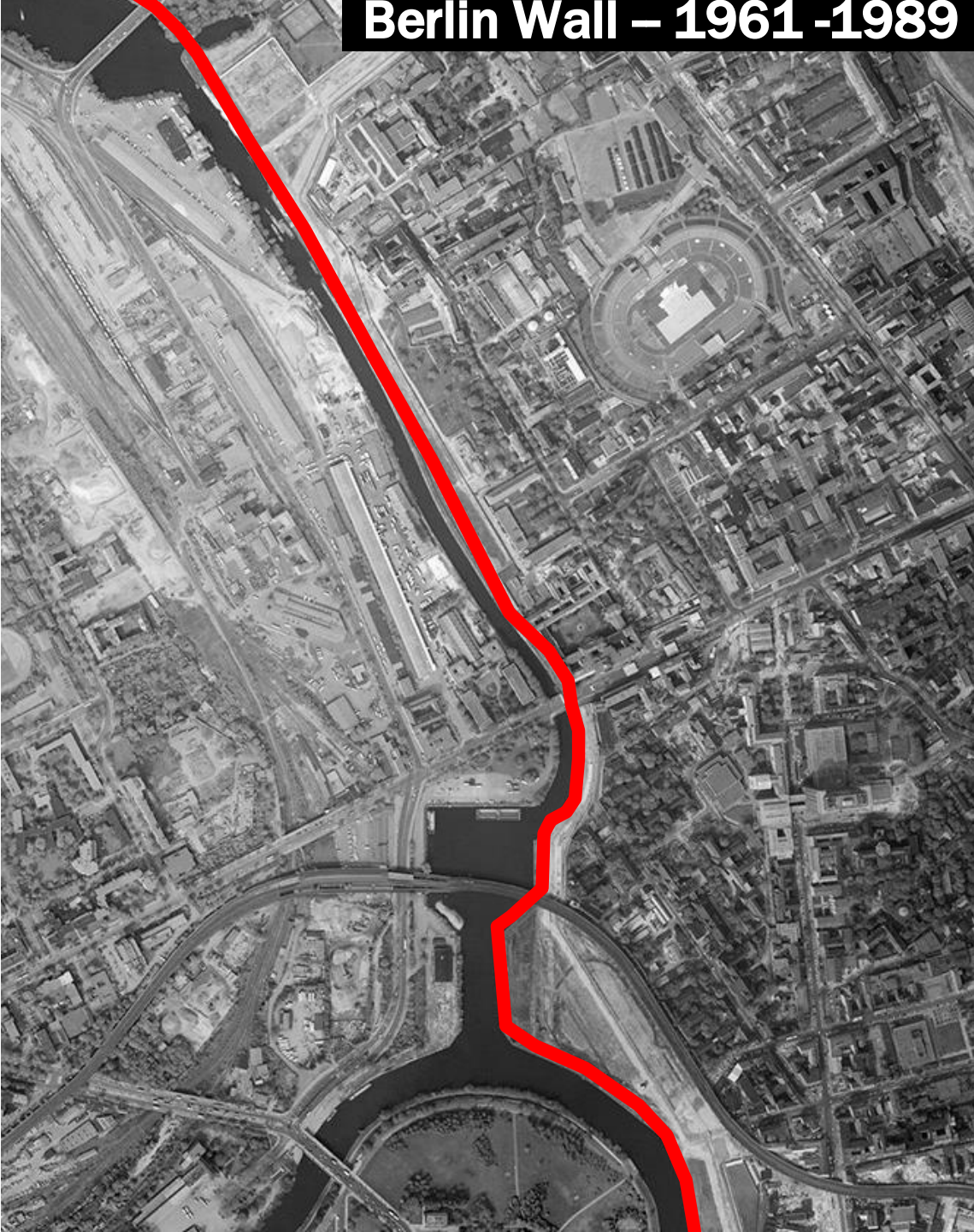
The world's best multimodal hubs promote mobility across scales by facilitating seamless transfers between modes. Such facilities do not design themselves.

Berlin Main Station (Germany)



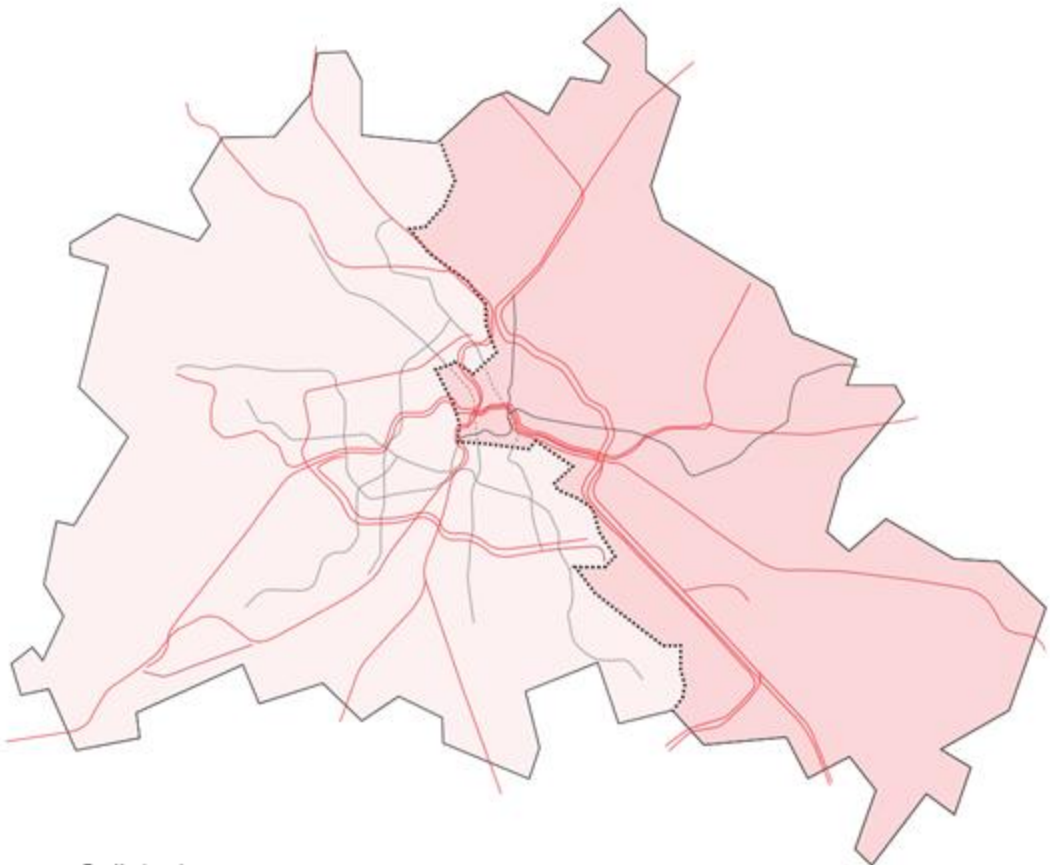


**Berlin Wall – 1961 -1989**



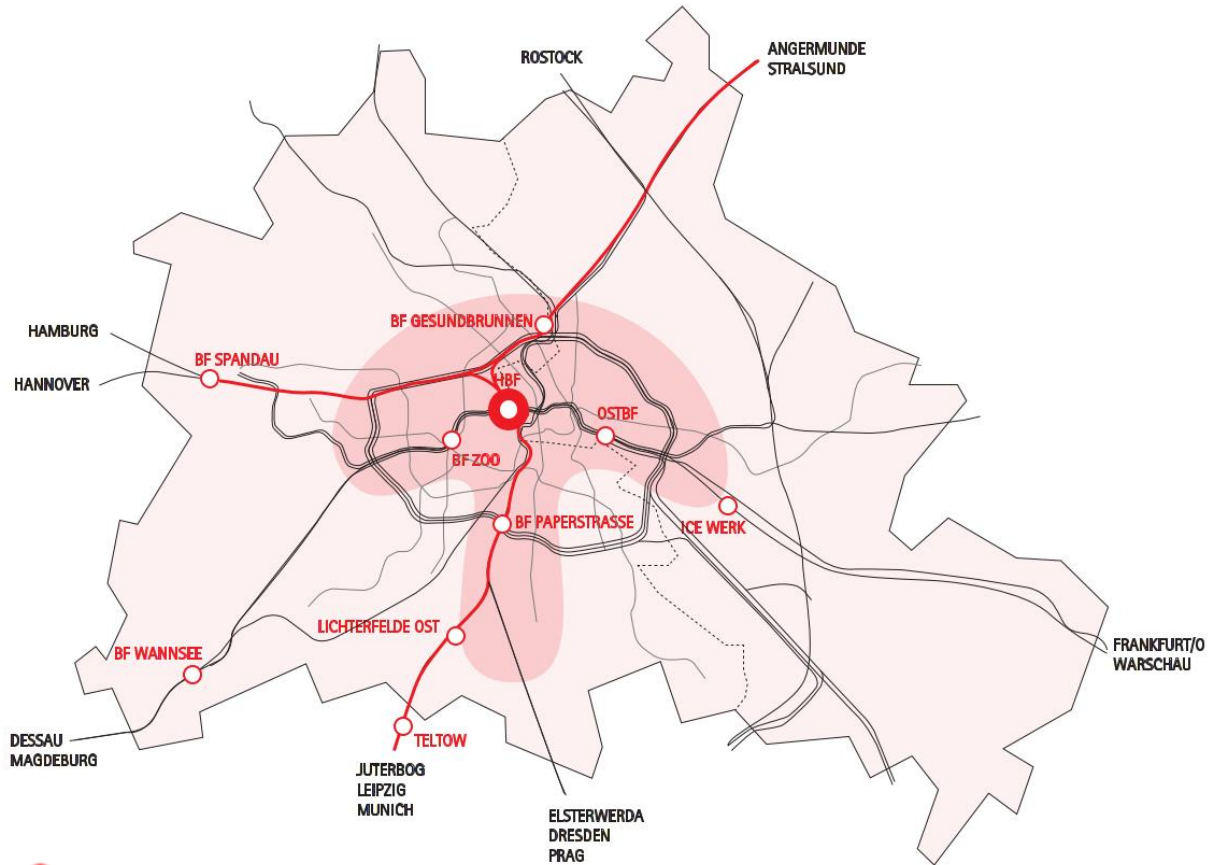


## 1980s – Berlin S-Bahn & U-Bahn Separate Rail Systems in East and West Berlin



- Berlin border
- - Berlin wall
- S-bahn
- U-bahn

## “Mushroom Concept” – Berlin S-Bahn & U-Bahn Today Integration of Rail Systems in Reunified Berlin



- Berlin main train station
- Train stations
- Mushroom concept - Connection rails
- Berlin border
- ..... Berlin wall
- S-bahn
- U-bahn

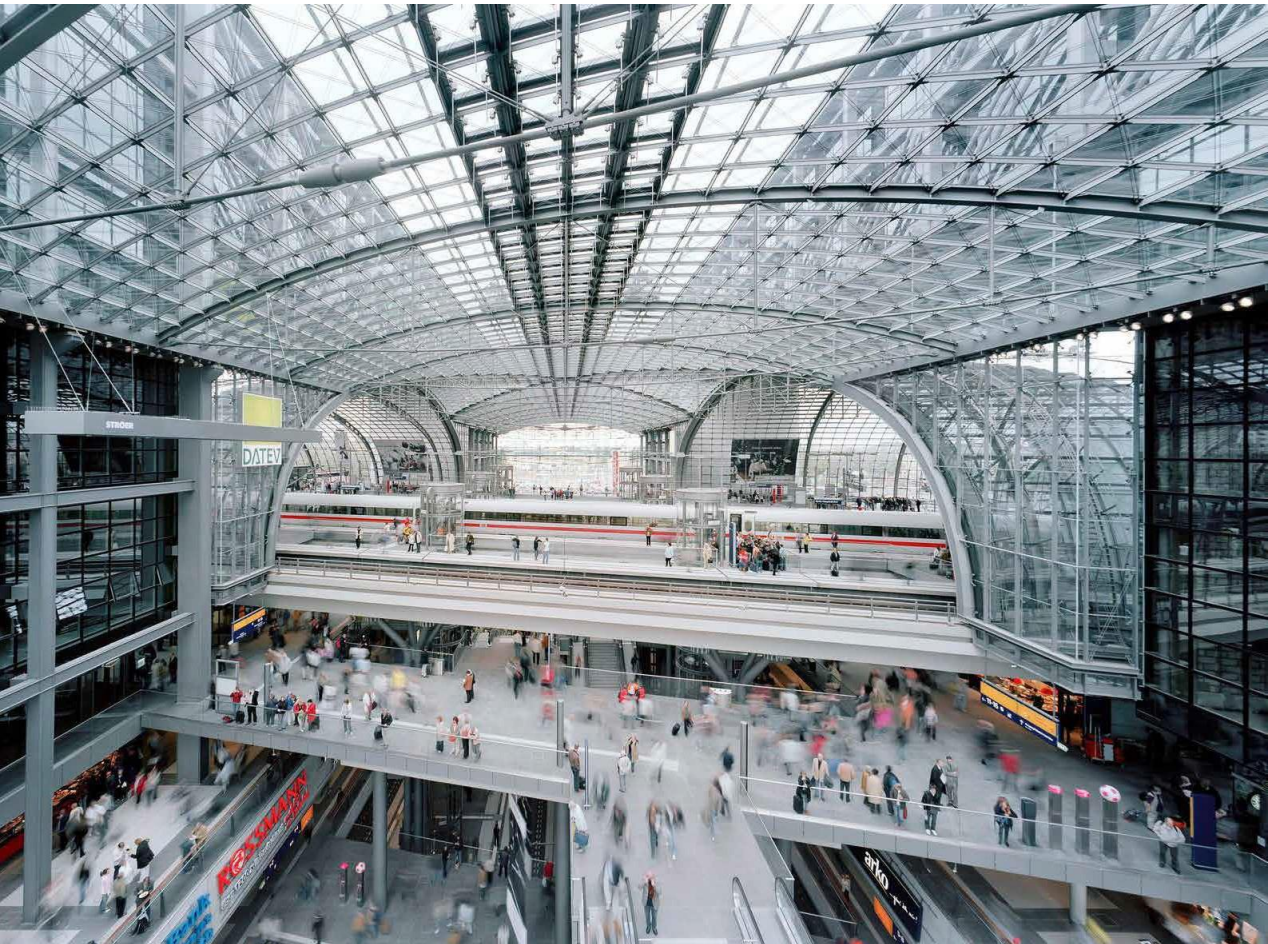
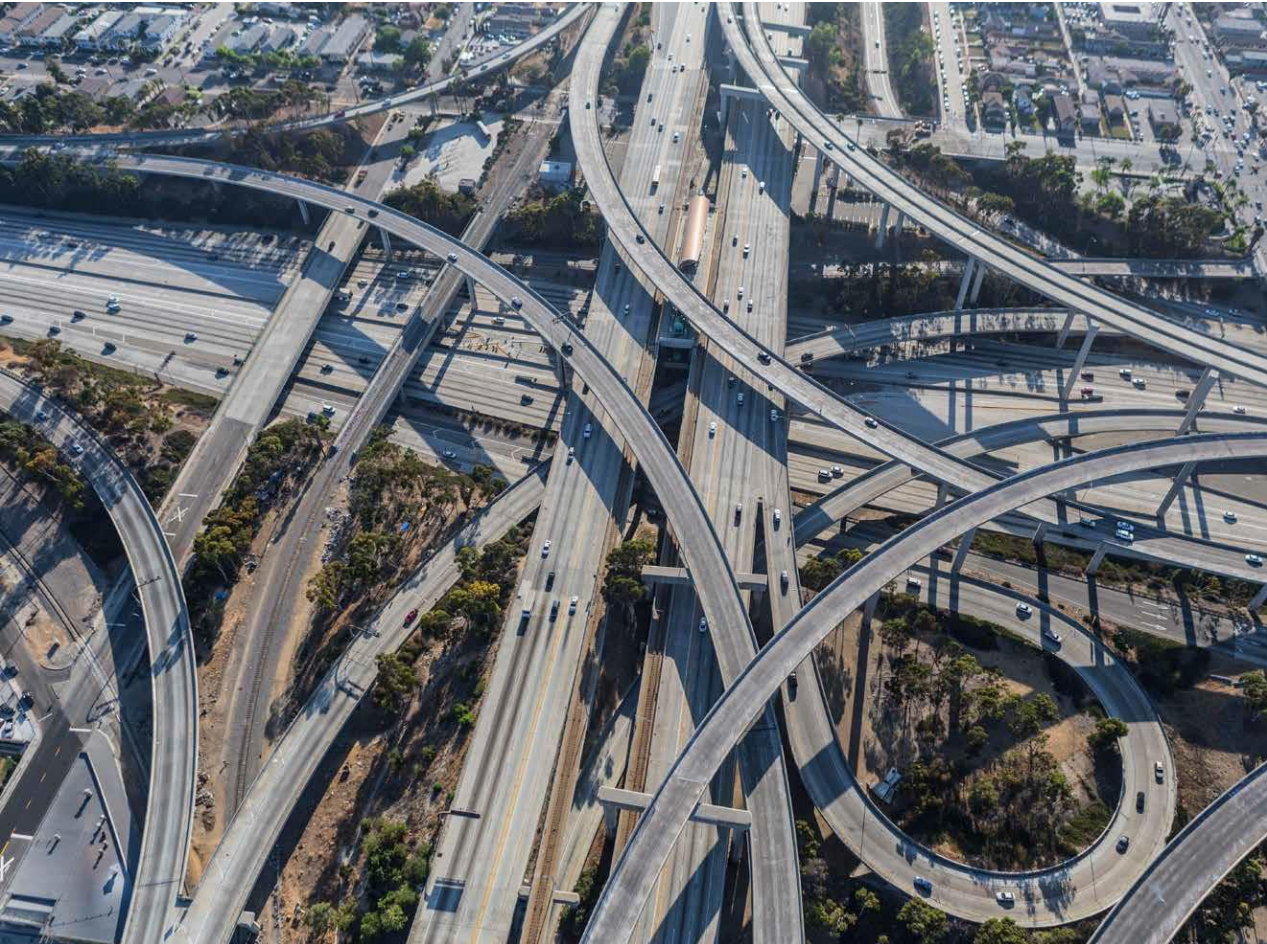




Berlin Main Station (Germany)



Interchange?



Exchange!





**Tianjin West Railway Station (China)**





12B 12B 检票口 Check In 13B

14B 14B 检票口 Check In 15B

16B 16B 检票口 Check In 17B

18B 18B 检票口 Check In 19B

20B 20B 检票口 Check In 21B

22B 22B 检票口 Check In 23B

24B 24B 检票口 Check In 25B

旅友书屋 RELAY.

Hisense

Peak Time Capacity

gmp





**Qianhai Bay Integrated Transportation Hub, Shenzhen (China)**



# Brightline Florida

A good model to attract Americans to passenger rail?







- Brightline is the only privately owned and operated intercity passenger railroad in the U.S.
- Current service between Miami and Orlando (235 miles)
- Boca Raton and Aventura Stations opened in 2023
- Service to Orlando commenced in 2023
- Future Expansion to Tampa
- Along existing ROW with track improvements and new stations
- Public-Private Partnership
- Ridership numbers are triple than what was expected



# FLAGSHIP STATIONS



Miami Central



Orlando International Airport

# IN-LINE STATIONS



Aventura



Fort Lauderdale



Boca Raton



West Palm Beach



# CUSTOMER JOURNEY: Station Access



Door-to-door pickup and drop-off, bookable via app:

- Private Rides (Uber)
- Luxury Private Rides and Shared Connect Shuttles
- Fixed Route Shuttles
- Event Shuttles
- Neighborhood Electric Vehicles
- Bike Share: BrightBikes and CitiBikes





# CUSTOMER JOURNEY: Public Transit



Bus Terminal Fort Lauderdale



Metromover Miami



West Palm Beach

Public Transit near Stations:

- Metromover, Metrorail, Tri-Rail (Miami)
- Bus



# CUSTOMER JOURNEY: Parking



West Palm Beach



Miami Central



Boca Raton

- Parking in stand-alone structure or integrated in TOD near station



# CUSTOMER JOURNEY: Station Entrance Lobby (Public)



## Miami Central:

- Ticket machines
- Luggage drop off and guest services
- 2 Cafés (1 at ground floor, 1 at 2nd level)
- Restrooms



# CUSTOMER JOURNEY: Station Entrance Lobby (Public)



## Smaller Stations:

- Ticket machines
- Luggage drop off and guest services
- Seating
- Restrooms



# CUSTOMER JOURNEY: Ticketed Area



- Access to ticket area via escalators and elevators
- Fare gates
- Luggage screening behind fare gates



# CUSTOMER JOURNEY: Ticketed Area Amenities



- Generous seating area with work areas
- Bar
- Grab & Go shop, access via app
- Premium Lounges



# CUSTOMER JOURNEY: Platforms



- Access to platforms via air-conditioned escalators and elevators
- Seating - short-term, passengers access platform shortly before train arrival
- Platform awnings for shade



# CUSTOMER JOURNEY: Train



- At seat food and beverage service
- Charging ports
- WiFi



# DEVELOPMENT AT STATIONS



Miami



West Palm Beach



# BRIGHTLINE WEST



- Las Vegas – Rancho Cucamonga (218 miles, 200 mph, travel time 2:10 hrs)
- Planned operation by 2028



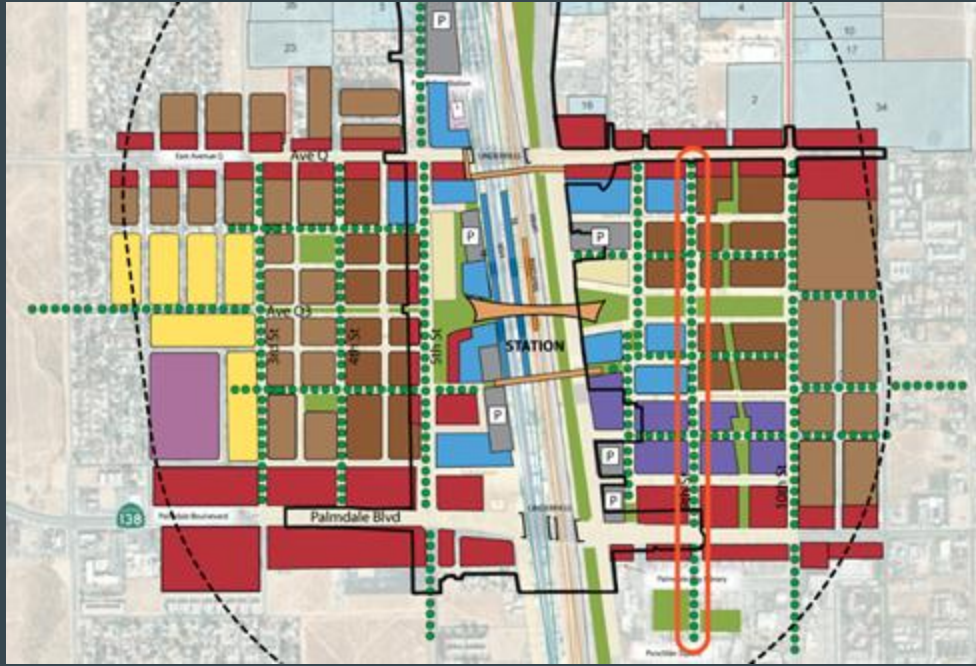
Las Vegas



Rancho Cucamonga



# PALMDALE STATION AREA - EARLY VISIONING





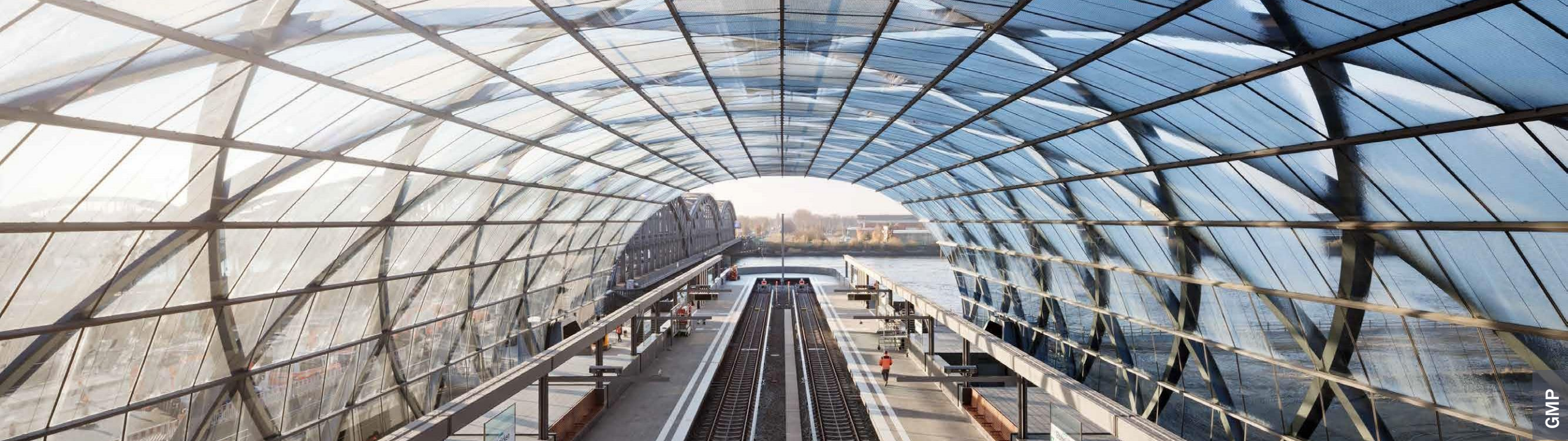
# Key Insights from Webinar Series for U.S. Rail

- Great stations facilitate mobility across modes and scales
- They are destinations in and of themselves
- Delivering a successful proof of concept is key
- Consistent political support, along with sufficient and stable funding are key

## Relevance for the U.S.

- Convincing more Americans to ride passenger rail will require providing a high-quality service.
  - It needs to be materially different than the U.S. passenger rail that they know already.
  - It must be convenient, comfortable, and it needs to connect people to the places where they want to go
- Brightline as a hopeful case study
  - Convenient, customer-centric service
  - How broadly applicable is the concept?
  - What should be expect to be the ongoing role of the public sector?





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