New Rail Hubs Along the California High Speed Rail Corridor: The Urban Design Challenges

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High-speed rail (HSR) will link California’s first-tier cities to one another and to second-tier cities, increasing accessibility in an unprecedented way. The system is also expected to have important physical impacts on station-adjacent neighborhoods and station cities. To date, limited research exists to guide public policy efforts directing development around HSR stations and the urban design variables that may influence physical change in the context of HSR remain largely understudied. Most Southern California cities have not yet started station-area planning, and the few that have are focusing attention on their stations as isolated entities in the system and city. This presentation will discuss the challenges of urban design in HSR station areas and will present policy recommendations for better spatial, intermodal, and operational connectivity.

Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris is Associate Provost for Academic Planning at UCLA and an Urban Planning Professor at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. Dr. Loukaitou-Sideris’ research includes documentation and analysis of the social and physical changes that have occurred in the public realm; cultural determinants of design and planning and their implications for public policy; quality-of-life issues for inner city residents; transit security, urban design, land use, and transportation issues. She has served as a consultant to the Transportation Research Board, Federal Highway Administration, Southern California Association of Governments and many municipal governments on issues of urban design, open space development, land use and transportation. She received her two MA’s and PhD in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Southern California.