

# Developments in China Railways

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### **China Railways in Perspective**

- In process of change: MOR to China Railways
- Immense railway one of world's largest by most measures
- Very intensely and efficiently operated, actually carries more freight than passengers
- Traffic growing rapidly just like the rest of the economy



### **Total Km of Line**





# Passengers (000)





### Passenger-Km (000,000)





### Freight Tonne-Km (000,000)





# Traffic Density (000 TU/Km)\*





\* Traffic Units (TU) is the sum of tonne-km plus pax-km

### Percent of Traffic (TU) That is Passengers





#### Rail Traffic Growth in China has Been Rapid





## **High-Speed Rail in China**

- Want to build both passenger and freight capacity: China can't follow western highway/air model.
- Four levels of passenger lines: HSR (250 km/hr and 350 km/hr), PDLs (200 km/hr) and mixed lines
- Aggressive goal, implementation is incredibly rapid. Total cost >\$330 billion.
- Demand expanding rapidly (HSR pax already > all other HSR systems)
- BUT the financial burden may be unsustainable:
  - Planning was "visionary," not based on evaluation
  - System built mostly with borrowing that CR will not be able to repay (debt may be >8x Total revenue)
  - Early results are mixed and following links less promising than existing because of regional development objectives that railway should not finance



#### **Chinese HSR System Current and Planned**



Source: World Bank, Dec 2014

Transport Concepts

TGA

### Growth in HSR Lines in China Eventual Goal 45,000 Km, 16,000 HSR





Adapted from World Bank Dec 2014

Note: Spain, 2515; Japan, 2388; France, 2036

#### Passenger Demand Growing Fast in China (million total passengers)



\* China Rail –High Speed (CRH) is trafic on PDLs, HSR is all >= 250 Km/hr Adapted from World Bank Dec 2014

Transport Concepts

# Potential Roles for U.S. Involvement

- China, especially railways not easy place to do business: government (political) involvement is deep and legal environment is weak and undefined
- Strong preference for local sources
- High-Tech components
- Business systems and commercial know-how (HSR is not yet a business)
- Leasing or financing
- Don't forget Urban Rail/Mass Transit: more diffuse but probably easier to do business. 19 systems (2400 Km now); 31 more (up to 5000 Km) in future



#### Sources:

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