

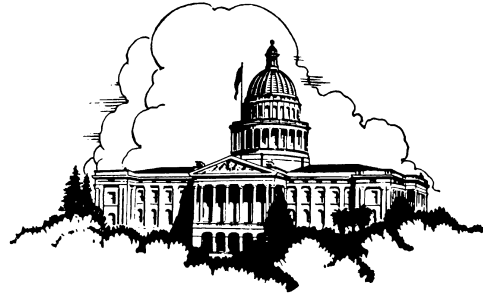
FROM

STATE ASSEMBLYMAN

**MIKE BRIGGS**

29<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

Fresno/Tulare Counties



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Briggs Unveils Rail Consolidation Bill Friday in Fresno**

*News Conference Highlights Effort to Obtain Funding for Rail Consolidation Project*

SACRAMENTO: Assistant Assembly Republican Leader Mike Briggs (R-Clovis) will unveil legislation this Friday afternoon in Fresno that is designed to gain funding for rail consolidations efforts in Fresno. The measure, **AB 1094**, seeks funding through the California State budget process and also through the Governor's **Traffic Congestion Relief** Program. The news conference will take place **Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>** at **1:00 PM**. It will take place at the **BNSF crossing** on the south side of **Shields Avenue**, near **Van Ness**.

"The Burlington Northern-Santa Fe rail line cuts through the heart of Fresno, and is the source of a number of traffic and safety problems," said Assemblyman Briggs. "Moving BNSF traffic to the Union Pacific lines has always been a big goal of mine, and this funding bill is just the start."

Assemblyman Briggs points out that everyone agrees with rail consolidation, including both the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe and Union Pacific Railroads. The problem has always been the cost. The rail consolidation project could cost anywhere between **\$300-\$400 million**. A 1993 study on the issue of Fresno rail consolidation concluded that consolidation can be done, and should be done.

The State of California is in the process of funding one such consolidation project in the Los Angeles basin. The Alameda Corridor project is designed to improve congestion in the Port of Los Angeles, by placing rail lines in a trench and building a series of overpasses for automobile traffic.

For more information about the Fresno rail consolidation effort, or to schedule an interview with Assemblyman Briggs, please contact Communications Director **Bill Bird** at (916) 319-2029.