

High Desert Corridor
Joint Powers Authority

January 21, 2014

Meeting Materials

Item 3

Approval of Minutes of April 10, 2013

**HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, April 10, 2013
2:00 p.m.**

**San Bernardino County Government Center
385 North Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0130**

	Directors Present	Michael Cano , Alternate to Supervisor Antonovich, Los Angeles County Supervisor (Vice Chair); Robert Lovingood , Supervisor, San Bernardino County First District; Norman L. Hickling , Deputy to Supervisor Antonovich; James Ledford , City of Palmdale; Ronald D. Smith , City of Lancaster
	Directors Absent	Michael Antonovich , Supervisor, Los Angeles County Supervisor (Vice Chairman); Ryan McEachron , City of Victorville
1.	Call to Order	Acting Vice Chairman Michael Cano called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Vice Chairman Cano introduced Robert Lovingood, the new First District Supervisor for the County of San Bernardino and new Director for the JPA. Director Cano noted that as Vice Chair he will conduct the meeting today and an election for the Chair will take place at a subsequent meeting.
2.	Approval of Minutes	Director Cano asked if there are any changes to the minutes. Director Ledford made a motion to approve the minutes from November 30, 2012 and stated a correction should be made under Item #9. The motion indicated support for the northwestern station along the easterly alignment, which should be stated as the easterly alignment to include the Palmdale Transportation Center (PTC). On motion of Director Ledford, seconded by Director Hickling, the minutes of the November 30, 2012 Board meeting were unanimously approved as amended.
3.	Director Reports	Vice Chair Cano commented that at the last MTA Board meeting they did have approval of a multimodal integrated study with the north County. He stated this project encapsulates a lot of things in this multimodal approach and stated this will not just be a highway corridor but will incorporate rail, potentially green energy and different forms of transmission of different utilities. He said the motion that was approved will look at several things, but will include the Palmdale Airport. Director Ledford stated in Palmdale they received control of their airport from Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) which they have been working on for several years and stated it is very exciting to be able to control the airport in their own jurisdiction. He said he does have one concern which is that the HDC calls for reducing the right-of-way down from 500 feet to

		<p>300 feet on the airport property proper, and questions why they would do that since he believes it should be maintained at 500 feet.</p> <p>Director Cano stated they can perhaps get staff to answer some of those questions.</p>
4.	Membership Roster Update	<p>Laurie Hunter, Special Projects Coordinator, stated there are a couple of vacancies that Director Lovingood may want to announce.</p> <p>Director Lovingood stated they will be appointing Councilman Scott Nassif of the Town of Apple Valley and Curt Emick as his alternate. He further stated Cari Thomas from the City of Adelanto will be appointed with no alternate at this time.</p> <p>Ms. Hunter stated the rest of the Board will remain the same.</p>
5.	Rail Connectivity Update	<p>Don Sepulveda, Metro, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file) with an update of the rail connectivity of all rail lines feeding through the Palmdale Station and using trackage along the 50-mile High Desert Corridor P3.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding more pick up of the interface of the High Desert Corridor and Palmdale station and the initial operation segment. Discussion also occurred regarding the existing State Rail System design and how it needs to be updated and the HDC integrated.</p>
6.	XpressWest Update	<p>Andrew Mack, Chief Operating Officer for XpressWest, presented an XpressWest update. He stated that XpressWest is a fully federally authorized and permitted private passenger-only interstate railroad, to his knowledge, the first time in American history that a private passenger-only interstate railroad has been authorized by the Surface Transportation Board for construction and operation (late 2011). He stated they have kept current on permits since this time and all authorizations, including BLM land use, across the I-15.</p> <p>Regarding the initial RRIF loan review process with the FRA, which was initiated in December 2010, he stated the FRA conducted a nationwide search and selected a team of experts and consultants to do complete and thorough due diligence of their project and loan application. He stated he understands that process is essentially complete, however, as it stands right now they do not have a written term sheet.</p> <p>He stated some of the JPA members may be aware of a letter recently submitted to the Secretary of Transportation, co-signed by Congressman Ryan and Senator Sessions asking the Secretary a way to honor approving the loan for the GAO to do a complete analysis of their loan application of their project. He noted the letter galvanized a significant amount of support for the project.</p> <p>Regarding the purview of this Board he noted their continued support of the HDC, specifically the rail component of that corridor and thanked the Board for their continued support for XpressWest.</p> <p>Laurie Hunter stated a letter of support has been prepared for the XpressWest loan and will be gathering signatures of the Board members</p>

		by the end of the week.
7.	<p>California State Rail Plan <u>Recommended Action:</u> <u>Approve, support and</u> <u>authorize staff to</u> <u>communicate support for:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Inclusion of High Desert Corridor in the California State Rail Plan, and connectivity to California High Speed Rail, XpressWest and Metrolink at the Palmdale and Victorville stations. b. Early scheduling of construction of the Bakersfield-Palmdale California High Speed Rail Line. c. Early scheduling of construction for California High Speed Rail connection between Los Angeles Union Station and the Palmdale Transportation Center. 	<p>Don Sepulveda, Metro, stated CalTrans did their State Rail Plan which is a two-year update mandated by PRIA. He stated they had the opportunity to review the administrative draft and indicated they had numerous comments, which were discussed, and they now they have the final draft State Plan. He stated the ridership numbers in the Plan were based on an old inter-city model. Historically, he said the State Rail Plan has always been a freight and inter-city plan and they have never really considered the commuter rail systems that are a vital link in Northern and Southern California. He said the State Rail Plan was to start addressing that imbalance and bring it together in this integrating type of system, but it fell short. He stated the ridership modeling is based on and considers inter-city passenger rail trips of 75 miles and greater. However, he stated the whole inter-city corridor is missing so what happens is there are distorted numbers. He said they are using the old State Rail Plan and trying to adapt it rather than doing something new and modifying it, therefore, it fell short. He said they also hit on the importance of rail to airport connections, which he said were very disconnected. He said they have always argued that high speed rail is not competing with planes, but should complement or supplement airports. He stated the Plan also discussed Amtrak bus routes. He also noted Measurer R was not discussed. He stated in his comments he did mention the High Desert Corridor and how important it is to the regional and future interstate links and how this moves forward, including XpressWest. He also stated concerns about the reference to safety. He stated while the Rail plan is a good two-year snap shot, they need a strategic plan that looks beyond the two years. He stated the Rail Plan is definitely a work in progress.</p> <p>Vice Chair Cano stated there is a recommendation from staff on three actions on the agenda today.</p> <p>Motion by Director Ledford, seconded by Director Hickling, the JPA approved support and authorize staff to communicate support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Inclusion of High Desert Corridor in the California State Rail Plan, and connectivity to California High Speed Rail, XpressWest and Metrolink at the Palmdale and Victorville stations. b. Early scheduling of construction of the Bakersfield-Palmdale California High Speed Rail Line. c. Early scheduling of construction for California High Speed Rail connection between Los Angeles Union Station and the Palmdale Transportation Center.
8.	<p>Presentation on Next Steps/Issues/Timeline on High Desert Corridor P3 Business Case and Feasibility Study</p>	<p>Kathleen Sanchez, Metro, presented a PowerPoint on the next steps, issues/timeline on the High Desert Corridor P3 Business Case and Feasibility Study (copy on file).</p> <p>Director Ledford again stated concern of the 300 feet right-of-way issue at the Palmdale Airport, that it should be 500 feet as is the middle segment.</p> <p>Mr. Failing explained the reason for the 300 foot right of way, but said</p>

		<p>they agree and will be looking to go back to 500 feet especially with airport development.</p> <p>Director Lovingood asked what the ridership number is for participation to project and break even or make viable. He stated he would also like to see initial studies, too.</p> <p>Ms. Sanchez stated she would get that information for Director Lovingood.</p> <p>Director Cano stated the governance issue may come up again which may need to be refined and could require an amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement in the future.</p> <p>Regarding Mr. Lovingood's request, Vice Chair Cano requested the documents be posted online and/or e-mailed to the Board Members.</p>
9.	<p>Presentation on progress of the High Desert Corridor EIS/R and information about EIS/R Community Outreach in June, Green Technology Event in Fall 2013</p>	<p>Doug Failing, Metro, introduced Robert Machuca to present the progress of the High Desert Corridor EIS/R.</p> <p>Mr. Machuca, Project Manager for High Desert Corridor - Metro, provided presentation and update on the High Desert Corridor EIS/R (copy on file). He also acknowledged his counterpart, Osama Megala.</p> <p>Mr. Machuca introduced Chester Britt, Consultant with Arellano Associates, to discuss outreach efforts (same PowerPoint on file).</p> <p>Mr. Ledford inquired if it would be helpful if the JPA took action on the right of way Issue? Mr. Failing stated, yes, it would be helpful.</p> <p>County Counsel stated the item should be agendized at the next JPA meeting at the Board's request.</p> <p>Director Ledford requested staff prepare an item for the next JPA meeting regarding the right of way issue.</p>
10.	<p>Budget</p> <p>a. Approve 2012-13 Recommended Budget</p> <p>b. Approve 2013-14 Recommended Budget</p>	<p>Gerry Newcombe, JPA Administrator, presented the 2012-13 and 2013-14 recommended budgets. Regarding 2012-13 he stated it was relatively simple. He said there are no salaries and benefits to pay, but they do pay for outside legal counsel and an audit service each year.</p> <p>Regarding the 2013-14 budget, he stated they are recommending the JPA consider an increase for the potential of legislative services at the federal level specific to issues the JPA may want to take on, so they are suggesting a budget of \$100,000 to be able to address that. He said they also recommend a public relations budget of \$50,000. He noted Metro is doing a great job in outreach specific to the project, but said there may be opportunities on a broader scale i.e., rail, green energy, highways, and different communities of folks they may try to reach, therefore, he said they are suggesting \$50,000 be set aside for this purpose. He also noted they are reaching the end of the funding now in the current agreement with MTA and they've also had funding come from L. A. County. He said the JPA may need to make some decisions as to how to staff the JPA going forward. He stated it should probably be placed on the agenda for a future meeting with options for the JPA to</p>

		consider. Motion by Director Lovingood, seconded by Director Hickling, and carried, the JPA approved the 2012-13 and 2013-14 recommended budgets.
11.	Audit	Mr. Newcombe presented the JPA audit for last year stating that the previous year was a clean audit with no findings. He stated they are currently working with the audit firm for the current year, which they anticipate should be complete in the next few weeks and should be clean as well.
12	Legislative Update	Laurie Hunter stated they are requesting Directors Lovingood and Ledford to sign a letter in support of the XpressWest loan. She stated they will be trying to work with the Department of Energy to put together a demo grant for the multi-purpose corridor and also working closer with SANBAG and Metro to move that forward. She stated if they come up with something in one direction or other and they need to have a specialized lobbyist, they can do so.
13.	Public Comment	No general public comment.
14.	Adjourn	There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m. and a future meeting will be set as needed.