

High Desert Corridor  
Joint Powers Authority

June 20, 2019

Meeting Materials

Item 6

Project Update



# High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority



## E-220 HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR

Date: June 14, 2019

Subject: Project Update

Last year, the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) held a workshop to provide an overview of the formation and current structure of the JPA, identify funding opportunities and challenges, explore interim alternatives for east-west mobility, and provide direction to staff on next steps to be taken to accomplish the JPA's objectives. The Board prioritized the rail component of the project and directed staff to coordinate with the various transportation agencies as they look into the prospect of increasing existing capacity on State Route 138/18.

Subsequent to the workshop, Brightline Trains, LLC (Brightline), the nation's only privately owned, operated and maintained express intercity passenger rail system, announced its agreement to acquire DesertXpress Enterprises, LLC. Brightline will take over the development, construction and operation of the Project and work with federal and local transportation officials to connect Las Vegas with Victorville, California, with plans to expand into the Los Angeles area.

Consistent with prioritizing the rail component of the High Desert Corridor Project, the JPA approved sponsoring Brightline's request for the California Infrastructure Economic Development Bank to issue private activity bonds for the XpressWest project and entered into a contract with Transportation Solutions to obtain a final Record of Decision (ROD) from the Federal Railroad Administration. The ROD is a precondition to acquiring right of way parcels for the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority rail portion of the project. Simultaneously, Brightline has been updating the environmental documents previously prepared by XpressWest.

The presentation will provide an update of the efforts currently underway by the JPA.

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