



High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority



E-220 HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, July 8, 2021 - 2:00 PM

Members of the public may participate in the virtual meeting via Zoom info below. Please mute phones/computer audio, until you are called to speak.

HDC JPA Board Virtual Meeting Info:

Join HDC Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85280178141?pwd=T2dUV2VrdlRrSUpXL2ZwTFIwcmVnUT09&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 852 8017 8141 Passcode: 820837

One tap mobile

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Council Member, Town of Apple Valley

Debra Jones

Mayor, City of Victorville



High Desert Corridor



Joint Powers Authority

E-220 HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR

HDC JPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS

Chair, Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th Supervisorial District, Los Angeles County
Vice Chair Colonel Paul Cook (Retired), Supervisor, 1st Supervisorial District, San Bernardino County
Steve Hofbauer, Mayor, City of Palmdale/Los Angeles County
Darrell Dorris, Council Member, City of Lancaster /Los Angeles County
Dave Perry, Los Angeles County
Debra Jones, Mayor, City of Victorville/San Bernardino County
Scott Nassif, Council Member, Town of Apple Valley/San Bernardino County
Gabriel Reyes, Mayor, City of Adelanto/San Bernardino County
Vacant, Joint Appointment, San Bernardino County/Los Angeles County

HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER ALTERNATES

Richard Loa, Council Member, City of Palmdale/Los Angeles County
Curt Emick, Mayor, Town of Apple Valley/San Bernardino County
Elizabeth Becerra, Council Member, City of Victorville/San Bernardino County

HDC JPA STAFF

Executive Director: Arthur V. Sohikian
Clerk: Lynna Monell, San Bernardino Clerk of the Board
Auditor-Controller: Jessica Trillo, San Bernardino County
Legal Counsel: John Tubbs II, Deputy County Counsel, San Bernardino County

OPEN SESSION

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Kathryn Barger, Chair
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** HDC JPA is conducting business remotely. HDC is committed to ensuring that our public meetings are accessible to the public and that the public can observe and address the meeting and to participate by providing written and oral comment on HDC matters. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Executive Director Arthur Sohikian at arthur@avsconsultinginc.com.

At this time members of the public can address the HDC Board of Directors regarding any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the agency that are not separately listed on this agenda. Whenever possible, lengthy testimony should be presented to the Board in writing and only pertinent points presented orally.



High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority



E-220 HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR

July 8, 2021, Board of Directors
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5. HDC JPA ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS FOR FY2021-22

Recommended Action: *HDC JPA Election of Board Officers for FY2021-22.*

6. HDC CORRESPONDENCE: *San Bernardino Clerk of the Board, Lynna Monell*

- i. HDC JPA letter transmitting the HDC High Speed Rail Project Resource Impact Analysis Report to Federal Railroad Administration, April 9, 2021
- ii. HDC JPA Executive Director Remarks to San Bernardino County Transportation Authority Desert/Mountain Committee, June 18, 2021.
- iii. HDC JPA support letter for CA High Speed Rail Authority/City of Palmdale Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant for Palmdale Integrated Station Implementation Master Plan, June 30, 2021
- iv. HDC JPA support letter for City of Palmdale Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant for Rancho Vista Boulevard Grade Separation, June 30, 2021.

7. MINUTES/RECAP OF PROCEEDINGS: *San Bernardino Clerk of the Board, Lynna Monell*

Recommended Action: *Approve April 8, 2021, HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes.*

8. HDC FY2021-22 BUDGET – Executive Director

Recommended Action: *A. Adopt the High Desert Corridor JPA Fiscal Year 2021-22 Recommended Budget
B. Approve HDC Metro Funding Agreement for
Surface Transportation Board Filing Fee*

9. BRIGHTLINE WEST PROJECT UPDATE – Brightline West

Recommended Action: *Receive and File Update Report*

10. HDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE REPORT – Executive Director

Recommended Action: *Receive and File Executive Director Update Report*

11. HDC BOARD MEMBER FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

12. ADJOURNMENT. Next Board of Directors meeting October 14, 2021, at 2:00pm.



High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority



E-220 HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR

April 9, 2021

HDC July 8, 2021 Board Meeting Report 6 Correspondence

Ms. Marlys Osterhues
Division Chief, Environmental and Project Engineering
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
Emailed to: Marlys.Osterhues@dot.gov,
Amitabha Bose, FRA Acting Administrator amitabha.bose@dot.gov

Re: High Desert Corridor Rail Project (Project) – Resource Impact Analysis Report

Dear Ms. Osterhues:

Following up from discussions with your office and FRA leadership, the High Desert Corridor JPA is pleased to submit for your review the attached draft Resource Impact Analysis Report prepared by our consultant, Circlepoint, in connection with the re-evaluation of Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (HDC EIR/EIS) issued in June 2016 for the project.

With this submittal, The High Desert Corridor JPA respectfully requests that you commence your formal review of the NEPA documentation in consideration for the issuance of a Record of Decision (ROD) by the FRA. We have also addressed your prior comments on the first half of the document previously delivered to you (Summary of Project Modifications).

As our representatives have previously discussed with you and with the Build America Bureau, the HDC JPA anticipates applying for grants or loan funding to finance the project, as may be available from the FRA, for which the issuance of a ROD by FRA would be required.

This report reevaluates the current rail Project design which includes some changes for the design evaluated in the HDC EIR/EIS document to determine if the prior results set forth in the HDC EIR/EIS remain valid or if new significant or previously unidentified impacts would occur.

The draft Report concludes that the modified Project would not result in the need for a subsequent EIS for the reasons documented in detail in the draft Report.

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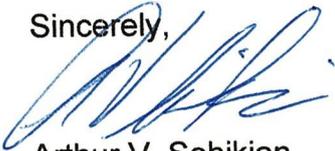
Debra Jones
Mayor, City of Victorville

Ms. Marlys Osterhues
Division Chief
Environmental and Project Engineering
Federal Railroad Administration
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We would be happy to arrange a workshop/meeting with your staff and our consultant team to review the document, point out key issues, and answer any preliminary questions they may have and that would assist in the review process.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this critical high-speed rail project that will significantly enhance mobility, economic development, environmental betterment, and equity in the State of California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Sohikian', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Arthur V. Sohikian
Executive Director
High Desert Corridor JPA

cc: Stephanie Perez-Arrieta
cc: Consultant team-Neil Peterson, Fred Wagner, Karen Hedlund, Scott Steinwert



High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority



E-220 HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR

Remarks presented virtually and for the record by Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director, High Desert Corridor JPA, to San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) June 18, 2021, 9:30am Mountain/Desert Committee on Agenda Item #4, High Desert Corridor Update

Chair Rowe, Vice Chair Bishop, SBCTA Board members and Executive Director Dr. Wolfe, my name is Arthur Sohikian, Executive Director, High Desert Corridor JPA. I appreciate the opportunity to speak during public comment on Agenda Item #4, High Desert Corridor JPA Update.

The HDC JPA has worked diligently for the mobility options outlined in the report to connect the high desert communities in the Antelope and Victor Valleys to the current HDC JPA pursuit of the High-Speed Rail Project Record of Decision with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the U.S. Surface Transportation Board (STB) expected at years end/early 2022.

There is an ongoing need for HDC JPA to bring together all transportation leaders at all levels of government, with the private sector, community and civic groups, and Tribal leadership, to combine investments for mobility options in the high desert corridor communities connecting Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. The untapped economic development along the HDC corridor that can connect underdeveloped areas of the counties of San Bernardino and Los Angeles to urban cores of Las Vegas and Los Angeles is vital to securing transportation investment in the region to bring mobility options, save lives, fill the equity gap, and spur economic development. The Covid pandemic exacerbated the transportation equity gap – this trend needs to be reversed.

With the President’s Build Back Better Program, working with AMTRAK, CalSTA, CAHSR, LA Metro, Metrolink, and other higher speed rail operators, there is a significant opportunity to seek federal, state, and regional funding to build a HDC rail project leveraging voter-approved Measure M funds.

I respectfully disagree with the questionable state of the HDC JPA. To characterize the current effort and focus of the HDC JPA, the Authority respectfully provides the following activities which HDC staff would have shared with SBCTA staff had an inquiry been made or a meeting been held:

The HDC JPA plays an integral part in the transportation transformation to shrink the mobility equity gap in high desert communities as follows:

- Los Angeles County voters overwhelmingly approve Measure M in 2016 that specifically mandates taxpayer funds through Los Angeles County Ordinance 16-01, Expenditure Plan Attachment A to the High Desert Multi-Purpose Corridor - LA County Segment as follows:

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- \$170,000,000 available in FY2019 to FY2021 with LA Metro seeking \$100,000,000 in matching funds with the following footnote: Funding calculated based on estimated right-of-way acquisition costs; but can be repurposed for appropriate project uses, as approved by the MTA Board of Directors.
- \$1,845,000,000 in FY2063 to FY2067, with LA Metro seeking \$32,900,000 in matching funds for a total of \$1,878,000,000 for the High Desert Multi-Purpose Corridor.
- This significant statement by Los Angeles County voters in Measure M is heard loud and clear by public and private officials seeking to leverage scarce transportation infrastructure dollars.
- In October 2020, HDC Authority unanimously hires new Executive Director with direction to fund the consultant team work plan shortfall to complete Reevaluation/Revalidation petition for the Rail Component Record of Decision with the FRA with concurrent petition to the STB for jurisdiction/clearance due to the interoperability of the Brightline West Station in the Town of Apple Valley to the California High Speed Rail Station in the City of Palmdale, both of which have previously been ruled to be subject to STB jurisdiction.
- January 2021, HDC working with LA Metro, Los Angeles County, San Bernardino County, and the City of Palmdale, fund over \$715,000 in contracts to complete the Rail Project Record for Decision with NEPA and CEQA clearance.
- April 2021, HDC submits petition to FRA and STB and has positive meetings with both agencies. HDC objective is to receive the Rail Project Record of Decision approval in late 2021/early 2022. This will **complete** clearance for the high-speed rail component and put the HDC project in position to advance to the next phase, Preliminary Engineering.
- Late 2020/early 2021, Metro Board approves \$5,000,000 budget for HDC Intercity Rail Service Development Plan & Funding Plan including \$3,000,000 of HDC Measure M funds, \$1,375,000 in CalSTA 2018 Transit Intercity Rail Capital Plan State grant under the Network Integration category, and \$625,000 from Brightline West (\$250,000 in cash and \$375,000 of in-kind contributions). April 2021, LA Metro has HDC Plan Kick-Off with over 85 participants representing agencies from CA High Speed Rail Authority (CAHSR), Caltrans Railway Division, Caltrans District 7, SBCTA, LA Metro, Metrolink, LA County Public Works, SB County Public Works, City of Lancaster, City of Palmdale, San Bernardino County CAO office and Brightline West.
- April 2021, City of Palmdale completes Transit Oriented Specific Plan with approved Environmental Impact Report and allocates \$5,000,000 for property acquisition for the new combined Metrolink and high-speed rail station.
- Pursuit of the SR138/SR18 Highway Alternative Project Study Report jointly by SBCTA and LA Metro using San Bernardino County Measure I and Los Angeles County Measure R funds with coordination from Caltrans Districts 7 & 8.
 - June/July 2021, SR138/SR18 Study kick-off meetings initiated for this gap closure project providing 4 continuous lanes from SR14 to I-15 to improve safety, mobility, and to connect the high desert communities in San Bernardino County and Los Angeles County. If funding is identified, construction could start as early as 2028.

- In 2020/2021, North Los Angeles County Transportation Coalition JPA (NCTC), LA Metro, and CalSTA approve over \$220,000,000 for four capital improvement projects along the Metrolink Antelope Valley Line (AVL) to improve safety and train speeds. Commuter train service frequency will double in the corridor by 2025.
- CalSTA approves pilot programs to test Low Emission Multiple Units along the Metrolink AVL and Metrolink San Bernardino Line. With the leadership of CalSTA, LA Metro, SBCTA, NCTC, Metrolink, and HDC, the pilot planning is underway, and testing could begin as early as 2022.

Opportunities Ahead

- President Biden and Congressional Leaders announce substantial federal investment in Transportation Infrastructure and highlight high-speed rail projects for funding. March/April 2021, HDC submits Highway Alternative SR138/SR18 Project and Rail Project to Senator Alex Padilla, Congressman Mike Garcia (CD25) and Congressman Jay Obernolte (CD8) for federal legislative opportunities. Numerous positive briefings have been held.
- May 2021, LA Metro CEO Phil Washington testifies before the House Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials specifically supporting the High Desert Corridor High-Speed Rail project.
 - Excerpt of LA Metro CEO Washington’s testimony: *“....Today, in Los Angeles, our economic growth is compromised because access to jobs is sharply constrained – not because individuals do not have the skill sets needed for a job – not because they lack the education. No, in many instances individuals simply cannot get to a job location within a reasonable amount of time.... What this tells me is that if we have a high-speed rail system - for example the High Desert Corridor intercity rail project in northern Los Angeles County that can connect Apple Valley, unincorporated Los Angeles County and Palmdale with our urban core and beyond – it would offer a chance for the American Dream to be in reached - again - for a new generation of Americans. A high-speed rail project along the High Desert Rail Corridor would dramatically reduce commute times by connecting some of the fastest growing residential, commercial and industrial areas in Southern California, such as the cities of Palmdale, Lancaster, Adelanto, Victorville and the Town of Apple Valley and offer a potential future linkage to Las Vegas via the planned Brightline West high-speed rail project. In addition, the High Desert Rail Corridor would also connect with the California High-Speed Rail system – connecting Los Angeles to the Central Valley and the San Francisco/Bay Area.”*
- May 2021, HDC staff briefs federal Build America Bureau to discuss a variety of funding possibilities leveraging LA County Measure M funds and CA State Rail Program funds.
- May 2021, California Governor Newsom and Legislative Leaders announced revised CA budget in final approval that includes millions in investment for transportation infrastructure. Additional funds are included for the next SB1 grant cycle in Summer 2022 with funding allocations in Spring 2023.
- Spring 2021, HDC has productive meetings with CalSTA agency officials on how the HDC Rail Project complements and is an essential part of the State Rail Program objectives.

- CA HSR Business Plan continues with environmental clearance for Southern California segments from Bakersfield to Palmdale and Palmdale to Burbank. Approvals are scheduled for Summer 2021 for the Palmdale Segment and Summer 2022 for the Burbank Segment.
- Summer 2021, CA HSR pursuing a \$1,000,000 federal RAISE grant jointly with City of Palmdale and HDC for Station Area Planning investing CA HSR and City of Palmdale funds as match to the grant request.

In closing, the HDC should continue to educate and advocate for transportation infrastructure investments from all government and private sector sources to deliver critical mobility options to reverse the decades long transportation equity gap created in the high desert communities of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties.

The HDC looks forward to the continued collaboration and partnership with SCBTA and others to deliver mobility and economic opportunities through transportation improvements for the region.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss HDC's mission and goals with SBCTA Committee Members and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank You.



Arthur V Sohikian
Executive Director
High Desert Corridor JPA



Mountain/Desert Policy Committee Membership – June 18, 9:30am.

Committee Agenda Link: <https://www.gosbcta.com/board/meetings-agendas/>

Chair Dawn Rowe, Board of Supervisors
Vice Chair Art Bishop, Council Member Town of Apple Valley
Vacant, City of Adelanto
Paul Courtney, Mayor City of Barstow
Rick Herrick, Mayor Pro Tem City of Big Bear Lake
Cameron Gregg, Mayor City of Hesperia
Ed Paget, Vice Mayor City of Needles
Joel Klink, Council Member City of Twentynine Palms
Debra Jones, Mayor City of Victorville
Rick Denison, Council Member Town of Yucca Valley
Janice Rutherford, Board of Supervisors
Paul Cook, Board of Supervisors



High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority



E-220 HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR

June 30, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigeig
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RAISE Grant--Palmdale Integrated Station Implementation Master Plan in Palmdale, California

Dear Secretary Buttigeig:

On behalf of the High Desert Corridor JPA, I am pleased to submit this letter supporting the RAISE grant request submitted by **the California High Speed Rail Authority for the Palmdale Integrated Station Implementation Master Plan in Palmdale, California.**

The CA HSR Authority, in partnership with the City of Palmdale, propose to complete a Master Plan that would conceptually design an integrated, multimodal station and define the collaborative decision-making and timing of the site's development based upon the various agencies' capital needs and implementation schedules.

The Master Plan is a crucial organizing document for implementation. It will identify each agencies' station and transportation service provider needs and requirements, reconcile scalable and shared facility requirements, identify and coordinate timing of improvements, define intermodal access to the station, assess agency funding timing, and identify a preferred conceptual design.

The Master Plan will outline a phased development strategy that will allow each partner to move forward with their plans as they are funded and scheduled. This plan is a key stepping-stone toward defining and delivering a world-class transit center, public community connectivity space, that provides connections between modes and services while spurring economic development.

Awarding a RAISE grant for an integrated station implementation master plan at Palmdale is a smart investment in the future of Palmdale, a critical location of intrastate high-speed rail connectivity, and the region's residents and businesses. This project will bring together and organize the needs of a range of partners. Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

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E-220 HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR

June 30, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: City of Palmdale Rancho Vista Boulevard Grade Separation Project RAISE Grant Request

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the High Desert Corridor JPA, I am pleased to submit this letter supporting the RAISE grant request by the **City of Palmdale for the Rancho Vista Boulevard Grade Separation Project.**

The Rancho Vista Boulevard transportation project is a prime example of increasing economic development opportunities supporting thousands of defense and associated contractor jobs at Air Force Plant 42 while creating construction jobs and investment in our community.

The Rancho Vista Boulevard Grade Separation Project is thoughtfully designed to enhance safety, reduce congestion, and improve operations of vehicular, bicycle, pedestrian, and train traffic. This is already one of the busiest arterials in the City of Palmdale during peak hours, and congestion will only continue to increase with Air Force Plant 42.

Palmdale is experiencing dynamic job and construction growth around Air Force Plant 42, home to Northrop Grumman, Lockheed, NASA, and Boeing. The completion of the Rancho Vista Boulevard Grade Separation project is critical for mobility in the region to support the economic development and jobs which will be created over the next decade supporting Plant 42's critical mission.

NCTC fully supports the City of Palmdale Rancho Vista Boulevard Grade Separation Project RAISE grant request. Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Arthur V. Sohikian
Executive Director

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E-220 HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR

BOARD AGENDA REPORT 7

The High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority

Date: July 8, 2021

To: The High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors (HDC)

From: Arthur V Sohikian, Executive Director/Board Secretary

Subject: **APRIL 8, 2021 HDC JPA MINUTES/MEETING RECAP OF PROCEEDINGS**

Recommended Action: Approve April 8, 2021, HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes.

HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, Thursday, April 8, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors participated via virtual zoom and teleconference:

	Directors Present	Kathryn Barger, Supervisor, County of Los Angeles Fifth District (Chair) Paul Cook, Supervisor, San Bernardino County First District (Vice-Chairman) Steven D. Hofbauer, Mayor, City of Palmdale (Director) Dave Perry, Deputy to Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Los Angeles County Supervisor (Director) Darrell Dorris, Council Member, City of Lancaster (Director) Debra Jones, Mayor, City of Victorville (Director) Scott Nassif, Council Member, Town of Apple Valley (Director)
	Directors Alternates Present and non-voting	Elizabeth Becerra, Council Member, City of Victorville (Alternate Director, non-voting) Richard Loa, Council Member, City of Palmdale (Alternate Director, non-voting). HDC Staff Present: Arthur Sohikian, Executive Director Lynna Monell, Clerk of the Board (San Bernardino County) John Tubbs, County Counsel, County of San Bernardino County Jessica Trillo, San Bernardino County Administrative Office, Finance and Administration. Amanda Meere, San Bernardino County, County Administrative Office, Government Affairs.
2.	Call to Order and Roll Call	Vice-Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 2:13 p.m. Executive Director Arthur Sohikian conducted Roll Call and noted there was a quorum of 5 of 7 Board Members present with two Alternate Board Members.
3	Pledge of Allegiance	Led by Vice Chair Cook
4.	Public Comments	Vice Chair Cook inquired of the Executive Director, if there was any HDC JPA Authority public comment. Executive Director Sohikian indicated that there was no written, virtual or telephone public comment

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5.	Correspondence	<p>Vice Chair Cook inquired of the Clerk to the Board, Lynna Monell, if there was any HDC JPA Authority correspondence.</p> <p>Clerk Monell indicated that there was no correspondence received and that HDC Correspondence sent was included in the Board Report.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HDC JPA Comments to CA HSR 2020 Revised Business Plan March 12, 2021 2. HDC JPA CA Assembly and Senate Committee Public Testimony to CA HSR 2020 Revised Business Plan March 15, 2021.
6.	<p><u>Recommended Action:</u> Approve Minutes of October 29, 2020 HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>On motion by Director Dorris, seconded by Director Hofbauer, the Board approved the minutes of October 29, 2020 HDC JPA Board meeting.</p> <p>AYES: Paul Cook, Steven Hofbauer, Darrell Dorris, Dave Perry, Debra Jones, and Scott Nassif</p>
7.	<p><u>Recommended Action:</u> Receive and File Executive Director Report</p>	<p>Executive Director Arthur Sohikian provided the report with the following highlights:</p> <p><u>HDC Highway Component Status Update</u></p> <p>SBCTA allocated Measure I funds and Metro allocated Measure M HDC funds to start the focused PSR-PDS project development documents with Metro as the lead agency starting in April 2021.</p> <p>Metro, SBCTA, Caltrans Districts 7/8 focused on widening SR18/SR138 as a continuous 4-lane highway between the Antelope and Victory Valleys (Victorville/Palmdale) connecting high desert communities in San Bernardino County and Los Angeles County. (SR18/SR138 map below).</p> <p>Consistent with the 2021 Work Plan, the Authority staff submitted the SR18/SR138 Highway Project to Rep. Obernolte (CD8) and Rep. Garcia (CD25) for consideration during deliberations of the federal FY22 Transportation Appropriations Act. Staff will also submit the Highway Project for consideration in the Transportation Reauthorization Act later this Spring.</p> <p><u>HDC Rail Component Status Update</u></p> <p>HDC Authority staff and Consultant Team have had positive meetings with incoming Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Administrator and staff to seek the LPA Rail Component Record of Decision (ROD) with concurrent petition to the US Surface Transportation Board (STB) for environmental jurisdiction/clearance due to the interoperability of the highspeed rail systems.</p> <p>HDC Authority staff and Consultant Team worked with CalSTA, Caltrans and SHPO (California Office of State Preservation) to successfully extend the HDC Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for one-year allowing HDC the opportunity during the Reevaluation process to assess impacts on all resources.</p> <p>April 2021, the Authority staff submitted the Reevaluation/Revalidation ROD petition to FRA and STB with the goal to receive final ROD/Notice of Determination (NOD) by end of 2021.</p> <p>Consistent with the 2021 Work Plan, the Authority staff submitted the HDC Rail Project to Rep. Obernolte (CD8) and Rep. Garcia (CD25)</p>

		<p>for consideration during deliberations of the federal FY22 Transportation Appropriations Act. Staff will also submit the HDC Rail Project for consideration in the Transportation Reauthorization Act later this Spring.</p> <p>Metro Board approved \$5 million budget for HDC Intercity Rail Service Development Plan & Funding Plan including \$3 million of HDC Measure M funds, \$1.375 million in CalSTA 2018 Transit Intercity Rail Capital Plan State grant under the Network Integration category, and \$625K from Brightline West (\$250K in cash and \$375K of in-kind contributions) for Metro to develop with HDC, Brightline West. Plan Kick-off is scheduled for April 2021 with an 18-month implementation schedule.</p>
8.	<p><u>Recommended Action:</u> A. Approve HDC FY2020/21 Modified Budget.</p>	<p>Executive Director Sohikian noted that subsequent to posting of the Board agenda, LA Metro notified HDC that they had \$400,000 available for the Rail ROD Transportation Solutions consultant contract environmental work.</p> <p>A. Approve HDC FY2020/21 Modified Budget as amended Motion by Director Hofbauer with a second by Director Nassif. AYES: Kathryn Barger, Paul Cook, Steven Hofbauer, Darrell Dorris, Dave Perry, Debra Jones, and Scott Nassif.</p>
9.	<p><u>Recommended Action:</u> A. Approve HDC Metro Funding Agreement</p>	<p>Executive Director Sohikian noted that subsequent to posting of the Board agenda, LA Metro notified HDC that they had \$400,000 available for the Rail ROD Transportation Solutions consultant contract work.</p> <p>A. Approve HDC FY2020/21 Modified Budget as amended Motion by Director Hofbauer with a second by Director Jones. AYES: Kathryn Barger, Paul Cook, Steven Hofbauer, Darrell Dorris, Dave Perry, Debra Jones, and Scott Nassif.</p>
10.	<p><u>Recommended Action:</u> A. Approve Transportation Solutions Contract Amendment 7, including subcontractors, for a not to exceed amount of \$581,203, pending budget capacity. B. Authorize the Executive Director/County of San Bernardino to execute contract Amendment 7</p>	<p>Executive Director Sohikian presented the item and noted that subsequent to posting of the Board Agenda, LA Metro notified HDC that they had \$400,000 available for the Rail ROD FRA/STB consultant work needed with Transportation Solutions.</p> <p>The TS and subcontractor's consultant work needed to complete ROD with FRA and STB environmental clearance to be shovel-ready. Transportation Solutions (TS) proposed Amendment 7 for \$581,203 (\$483K ROD and \$98K STB). Partial funding identified from Supervisor Kathryn Barger (\$220K), City of Palmdale (\$95K), and San Bernardino County in-kind staffing (\$12,500) have committed funds to the HDC.</p> <p>Mr. Sohikian described, as in Item 9 on the Modified FY 2020/21 budget, adding \$400,000 funds from LA Metro for the consultant work needed to complete the FRA/STB Rail ROD, shovel ready environmental clearance.</p> <p>Transportation Solutions and Subcontractors Amendment 7 Cost Breakdown: Transportation Solutions, including Venable, LLC and Karen Hedlund – \$97,350 AECOM – \$34,108 CirclePoint – \$449,745 Total: \$581,203</p> <p>Approve motion as amended by Director Nassif with a second from Director Hofbauer:</p>

		<p>A. Approve Transportation Solutions Contract Amendment 7, including subcontractors, for a not to exceed amount of \$581,203.</p> <p>B. Authorize the Executive Director/County of San Bernardino to execute contract Amendment 7.</p> <p>AYES: Kathryn Barger, Paul Cook, Steven Hofbauer, Darrell Dorris, Dave Perry, Debra Jones, and Scott Nassif</p>
11	<u>Recommended Action:</u> Receive and File Report	HDC JPA Restructure. Executive Director Sohikian stated the item has been tabled for further discussion.
12	HDC Future Items	<p>Director Dorris asked for a Brightline West Update at the next HDC Board mtg on July 8, 2021.</p> <p>Vice Chair Cook stated that CA Treasurer Ma would be a good guest speaker for HDC future meeting.</p>
13	Adjourn	<p>There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.</p> <p>Next Meeting: July 8, 2021, 2pm</p> <p>Motion to adjourn by Director Dorris with second from Director Nassif.</p> <p>AYES: Kathryn Barger, Paul Cook, Steven Hofbauer, Darrell Dorris, Dave Perry, Debra Jones, and Scott Nassif</p>



High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority



E-220 HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR

BOARD AGENDA REPORT 8

The High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority

Date: July 8, 2021

To: The High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors (HDC)

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

Subject: **Adopt HDC JPA FY2021-22 Recommended Budget**

Recommended Action: *A. Adopt the High Desert Corridor JPA Fiscal Year 2021-22 Recommended Budget.
B. Approve HDC Metro Funding Agreement for Surface Transportation Board Filing Fee.*

Fiscal Impact:

The FY2021-22 budget includes new revenue from the Los Angeles County 5th District Supervisorial Discretionary Funds.

FY2021/22 Recommended Budget Highlights:

- It is estimated that \$410,985 will be expended on the agreement with Transportation Solutions in FY2021-22.
- It is anticipated that the agreement with AVS Consulting, Inc. will be renewed in October 2021 for an amount not-to-exceed \$11,500 per month.
- Los Angeles County 5th District contribution of \$85,000.
- San Bernardino County provides in-kind staff time from the Clerk of the Board, County Administrative Office, and County Counsel, \$20,215.
- Website start-up costs and annual hosting fee are budgeted at \$2,720 and \$250, respectively. Internal staff time will be utilized for website maintenance.
- The Surface Transportation Board (STB) filing fee of \$96,600 is not included in the FY2021-22 Recommended Budget. The STB filing fee will be paid directly by LA Metro, as proposed in Recommended Action B of this Board Agenda Report.
- Fund Balance of \$8,083 equals retained (set aside) funding for future possible legal, audit and insurance only.

HDC STB Filing Fee Background:

At the January 14 and April 8, 2021, HDC JPA Board meetings, the Board approved the allocation of \$400,000 in Metro funds to complete the Record of Decision consultant work, which includes, among other things, preparation of a petition to the Surface Transportation Board to obtain authority to construct and operate the HDC Rail Project.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathryn Barger

Supervisor, Los Angeles County Fifth District (Chair)

Darrell Dorris

Council Member, City of Lancaster

Steven D. Hofbauer

Mayor, City of Palmdale

Dave Perry

Los Angeles County

Col. Paul Cook (Ret.)

Supervisor, San Bernardino County First District (Vice Chair)

Gabriel Reyes

Mayor, City of Adelanto

Scott Nassif

Council Member, Town of Apple Valley

Debra Jones

Mayor, City of Victorville

A petition to the Surface Transportation Board has been prepared that includes a \$96,600 filing fee. The Authority staff did not anticipate the STB filing fee to include in the April 2021 Metro HDC Funding agreement for environmental work, therefore, we are including the reimbursable filing fee in this report.

Construction and operation of new rail lines require prior authorization by the Board. 49 U.S.C. § 10901. The JPA intends to file a petition for exemption with the Board to request this authorization. The Board has established a fee of \$96,600 for this type of filing. 49 C.F.R. § 1002.2(f). However, as a government entity, the JPA is eligible to request a waiver of the filing fee. State and local entities that are not before the Board in a proprietary role are entitled to a waiver of the filing fee. *Id.* § 1002.2(e). In addition, the Board may grant discretionary waivers or fee reductions if in the public interest. *Id.*

For the STB Board to consider the petition for exemption, the filing fee must be paid upfront. *Id.* § 1002.2(b). Therefore, when filing its petition for exemption, the JPA will pay the fee and simultaneously request a waiver. The JPA will explain that it is a local agency not acting in a proprietary role and is therefore entitled to the waiver. In addition, the JPA will also argue that a discretionary waiver of the fee is in the public interest. If the waiver is granted, the Board will refund the filing fee. There is no specific timeframe by which the Board must issue a decision on the request or refund the fee.

If, the STB were to not return the filing fee, then HDC is prepared to seek available funding sources to reimburse Metro, such as NCTC .5% Planning Measure M Funds and/or other funding sources available.

ATTACHMENT A: FY2021-22 Recommended Budget

ATTACHEMNT B: HDC Metro Funding Agreement for Surface Transportation Board Filing Fee

July 8, 2021 Adopt the High Desert Corridor JPA Fiscal Year 2021-22 Recommended Budget - Report 8 ATTACHMENT A

2021-22 Recommended Budget	2020-21 Modified	2021-22 Recommended	Variance
Audit Services	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500	\$ -
Legal Services	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ (5,000)
Insurance	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ (1,000)
Professional Services (Transportation Solutions)	\$ 863,590	\$ 410,985	\$ (452,605)
Professional Services (AVS Consulting)	\$ 95,000	\$ 138,000	\$ 43,000
Website and Software	\$ -	\$ 2,970	\$ 2,970
San Bernardino County Staff Time - In Kind	\$ -	\$ 20,215	\$ 20,215
Total Requirements	\$ 971,090	\$ 578,670	\$ (392,420)
City of Palmdale	\$ 95,000	\$ -	\$ (95,000)
Los Angeles County	\$ 220,000	\$ 85,000	\$ (135,000)
LA Metro	\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ (400,000)
San Bernardino County - In Kind	\$ -	\$ 20,215	\$ 20,215
Interest Income	\$ 4,350	\$ 4,350	\$ -
Total Sources	\$ 719,350	\$ 109,565	\$ (609,785)
Use of Fund Balance	\$ 251,740	\$ 469,105	\$ 217,365

Budget Highlights:

- * It is estimated that \$410,985 will be expended on the agreement with Transportation Solutions in 2021-22.
- * It is anticipated that the agreement with AVS Consulting, Inc. will be renewed for an amount not-to-exceed \$11,500 per month.
- * Los Angeles County 5th District contribution of \$85,000.
- * San Bernardino County provides in-kind staff time from the Clerk of the Board, County Administrative Office, and County Counsel.
- * Website start-up costs and annual hosting fee are budgeted at \$2,720 and \$250, respectively. Internal staff time will be utilized for website maintenance.
- * The Surface Transportation Board (STB) filing fee of \$96,600 is not included in the 2021-22 Recommended Budget. The STB filing fee will be paid directly by LA Metro, as proposed in Board Agenda Report #8, Recommended Action B.
- * Fund Balance of \$8,083 equals retained (set aside) funding for future possible legal, audit and insurance only.

HDC July 8, 2021, Board Report 8 Metro Funding Agreement ATTACHMENT B

FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR
HIGH DESERT INTERCITY RAIL CORRIDOR
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FILING FEE

This Funding Agreement (“AGREEMENT”) is made and entered into as of July 08, 2021, by and between the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority (hereinafter referred to as “HDCJPA”) and The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (hereinafter referred to as “Metro”), and jointly referred to as the “Parties” and each as a “Party”:

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, HDCJPA is a joint powers authority consisting of the County of San Bernardino, County of Los Angeles, as members and directors, and the Cities of Adelanto, Victorville, Lancaster, Palmdale, and the Town of Apple Valley, as appointed directors. The HDCJPA was created to develop a new freeway/expressway from State Route 14 freeway to Interstate 15 freeway. In 2016, the High Desert Corridor (HDC) evolved into a multi-purpose corridor that will include high-speed rail that connects Antelope Valley in Los Angeles County with Victor Valley in San Bernardino County. This funding agreement is specific to the High Desert Corridor (“HDC Rail Project”) that connects Antelope Valley in Los Angeles County with Victor Valley in San Bernardino County.

WHEREAS, the purpose of the HDC Rail Project is to improve east-west mobility within the High Desert region of Southern California by addressing present and future travel demands and mobility needs. The HDC Rail Project also aims to improve travel safety and reliability, while connecting residential, commercial and industrial areas in the Antelope and Victor Valleys, including the cities of Palmdale, Lancaster, Adelanto, Victorville, Hesperia and the Town of Apple Valley;

WHEREAS, construction and operation of the HDC Rail Project requires prior authorization by the Surface Transportation Board (STB) pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10901;

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2021 and April 8 2021, the HDCJPA Board approved the principal terms and scope of work on a contract amendment with their environmental consultant, “Transportation Solutions”, to, among other things, prepare a petition and secure approval from the STB to construct and operate the HDC Rail Project;

WHEREAS, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502, the HDCJPA has prepared and intends to submit a petition for exemption from the prior approval requirement of 49 U.S.C. § 10901 to obtain authority to construct and operate the HDC Rail Project;

HDC July 8, 2021, Board Report 8 Metro Funding Agreement ATTACHMENT B

WHEREAS, the STB has established a filing fee of \$96,600 for petitions for exemption filed under 49 U.S.C. § 10502 (the “STB filing fee”). The STB filing fee must be paid upfront for the Board to give consideration to the petition for exemption;

WHEREAS, the HDCJPA believes it is eligible for a waiver of the STB filing fee and intends to request a refund of the STB filing fee at the time it files its petition for exemption;

WHEREAS, Metro, as a partner of the HDC highway and rail projects in north Los Angeles County, is prepared to contribute the funding needed to file the petition for exemption with the STB in an amount not to exceed \$96,600;

WHEREAS, the \$96,600 in funds shall be paid directly to the STB by Metro;

WHEREAS, Metro shall be entitled to any refund by the STB of the \$96,600 STB filing fee. If the STB were to not return the filing fee, then HDCJPA is prepared to seek available funding sources to reimburse Metro.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Term.

The term of this AGREEMENT shall commence on the date the AGREEMENT is fully approved and executed by the Parties, and shall terminate upon the occurrence of all of the following: (i) the STB refunds the STB filing fee and Metro is reimbursed; or (ii) the STB makes a determination that HDCJPA is not eligible for a waiver of the STB filing fee;;

2. Payment.

Metro shall make a one-time payment of \$96,600 in Proposition C 25% Funds (the “Funds”) to pay the STB filing fee. Metro shall make this payment directly to STB within XX days of execution of this AGREEMENT. HDCJPA will request a waiver of the STB filing fee at the time it files its petition for exemption. Metro is entitled to any amount refunded by the STB.

3. Responsibility for Project.

HDCJPA shall be solely responsible for preparing and filing the petition for exemption with the STB for the HDC Rail Project and remains responsible for obtaining all necessary regulatory approvals for the HDC Rail Project. Metro may request a copy of any documents filed by the HDCJPA with the STB. HDCJPA shall deliver any such requested deliverables to Metro within 10 business days.

4. Notices.

HDC July 8, 2021, Board Report 8 Metro Funding Agreement ATTACHMENT B

All notices, demands, consents, requests or other communications required to or permitted to be given pursuant to this AGREEMENT shall be in writing, shall be given only in accordance with the provisions of this Section, shall be addressed to the Parties in the manner set forth below, and shall be conclusively deemed to have been properly delivered: (i) upon receipt when hand-delivered during normal business hours (provided that notices which are hand-delivered shall not be effective unless the sending Party obtains a signature of a person at such address that the notice has been received); (ii) upon receipt when sent by facsimile prior to 5:00 p.m. of a given business day (otherwise, such receipt is deemed as of the following business day) to the number set forth below (provided, however, that notices given by facsimile shall not be effective unless the sending Party's machine provides written confirmation of successful delivery thereof); (iii) upon the day of delivery if the notice has been deposited in an authorized receptacle of the U.S. Postal Service as first-class, registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, with a return receipt requested (provided that the sender has in its possession the return receipt to prove actual delivery); or (iv) one (1) business day after the notice has been deposited with either FedEx or United Parcel Service to be delivered by overnight delivery (provided that the sending Party receives a confirmation of actual delivery from the courier). The addresses of the Parties to receive notices are as follows:

To HDCJPA: High Desert Corridor JPA
San Bernardino County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
[385 North Arrowhead Avenue, 2nd Floor](#)
[San Bernardino, CA 92415-0130](#)
Attention: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director, HDCJPA
Email: arthur@avsconsultinginc.com

To Metro: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza 99-10, 17th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attention: Jeanet Owens, Senior Executive Officer, Project Management
Engineering & Construction
email: OwensJ@metro.net

5. Governing Law and Venue.

This AGREEMENT, and the exhibits hereto, shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of California. In the event of any legal action to enforce or interpret the AGREEMENT, the sole and exclusive venue shall be a court of competent jurisdiction located in the County of Los Angeles and the Parties hereto agree to and do hereby submit to the jurisdiction of such court.

6. Entire Agreement.

The AGREEMENT is the final expression of, and contains the entire agreement of the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior understandings with respect thereto. This AGREEMENT may not be modified, changed, supplemented, superseded,

HDC July 8, 2021, Board Report 8 Metro Funding Agreement ATTACHMENT B

canceled or terminated, nor may any obligations hereunder be waived, except by a written instrument signed by the Party to be charged or by its agent duly authorized in writing or as otherwise expressly permitted herein. The Parties do not intend to confer any benefit hereunder on any person, firm or entity other than the Parties hereto and their lawful assignees.

8. Indemnity.

Neither Metro nor any officer or employee thereof shall be responsible for any damage or liability occurring by reason of anything done or committed to be done by HDCJPA under or in connection with any work performed by and or service provided by HDCJPA, its officers, agents, employees, contractors and subcontractors under this AGREEMENT. HDCJPA shall fully indemnify, defend and hold Metro and its subsidiaries, and its officers, agents and employees harmless from and against any liability and expenses, including without limitation, defense costs, any costs or liability on account of bodily injury, death or personal injury of any person or for damage to or loss of risk of property, any environmental obligation, any legal fees and any claims for damages of any nature whatsoever arising out of the HDC Rail Project, including without limitation: (i) breach of HDCJPA's obligations under this AGREEMENT; or (ii) any act or omission of HDCJPA, or its officers, agents, employees, contractors or subcontractors in the performance of the work or the provision of the services, in connection with the HDC Rail Project.

9. Counterparts.

This AGREEMENT may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which, together, shall constitute one and the same instrument. The Parties shall be entitled to sign and transmit an electronic signature of this AGREEMENT (whether by facsimile, PDF or other email transmission), which signature shall be binding on the Party whose name is contained therein. Each Party providing an electronic signature agrees to promptly execute and deliver to the other Party an original signed AGREEMENT upon request.

HDC July 8, 2021, Board Report 8 Metro Funding Agreement ATTACHMENT B

10. Authority.

Each Party signing below represents that it has the authority to enter into this AGREEMENT and consents to its terms.

In Witness Whereof, the Parties have caused this AGREEMENT to be executed by their respective officers, duly authorized by the HDCJPA on _____, 2021 and by Metro on _____, 2021.

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority

By: _____

Kathryn Barger, Chair

Approved as to Form

JOHN TUBBS II

Deputy County Counsel

Attorney for HDCJPA

By: _____

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan
Transportation Authority

By: _____

Approved as to Form

RODRIGO A. CASTRO-SILVA

County Counsel

By: _____

Deputy

brightline west



High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority
July 8, 2021

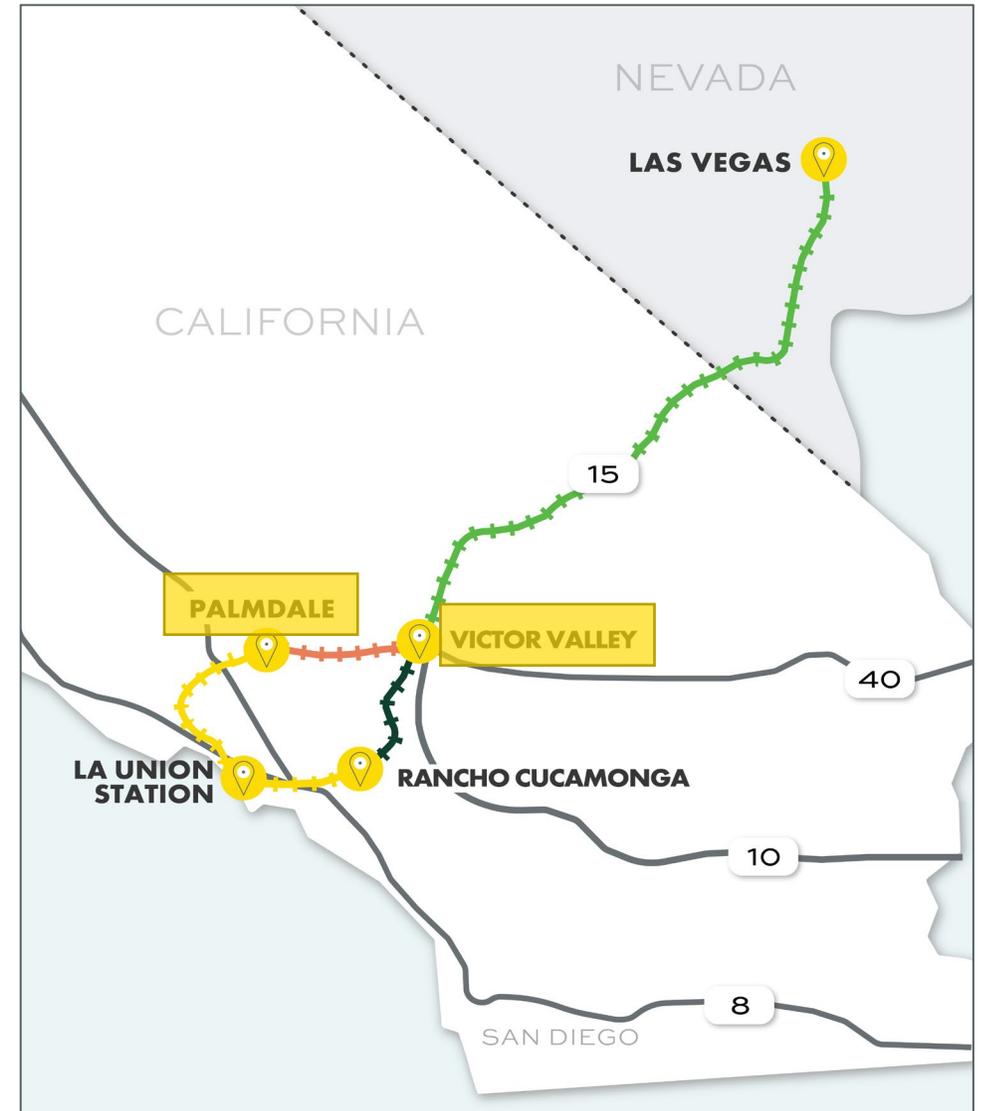
Las Vegas – Victor Valley Update

- **NEPA reevaluation completed in September**, concluding no Supplemental EIS is necessary
- **Right-of-Way agreements executed** for the I-15 with Caltrans and NDOT
- **Project design and construction contracts in place for key project components**, such as civil construction, systems and electrification, trackwork and rolling stock
- **FRA leading completion of the National Historic Preservation Act's Section 106 requirement**, in consultation with California and Nevada SHPOs and Native American tribes
- **Station Locations:**
 - **Victor Valley:** East side of I-15 at Dale Evans Parkway (Dale Evans Pkwy to the north and east, and Sombre Rd. to the south)
 - **Las Vegas:** East side of I-15 at Warm Springs Rd. (Las Vegas Boulevard (to the east, Blue Diamond Rd. to the south, and Warm Springs Rd. to the north)



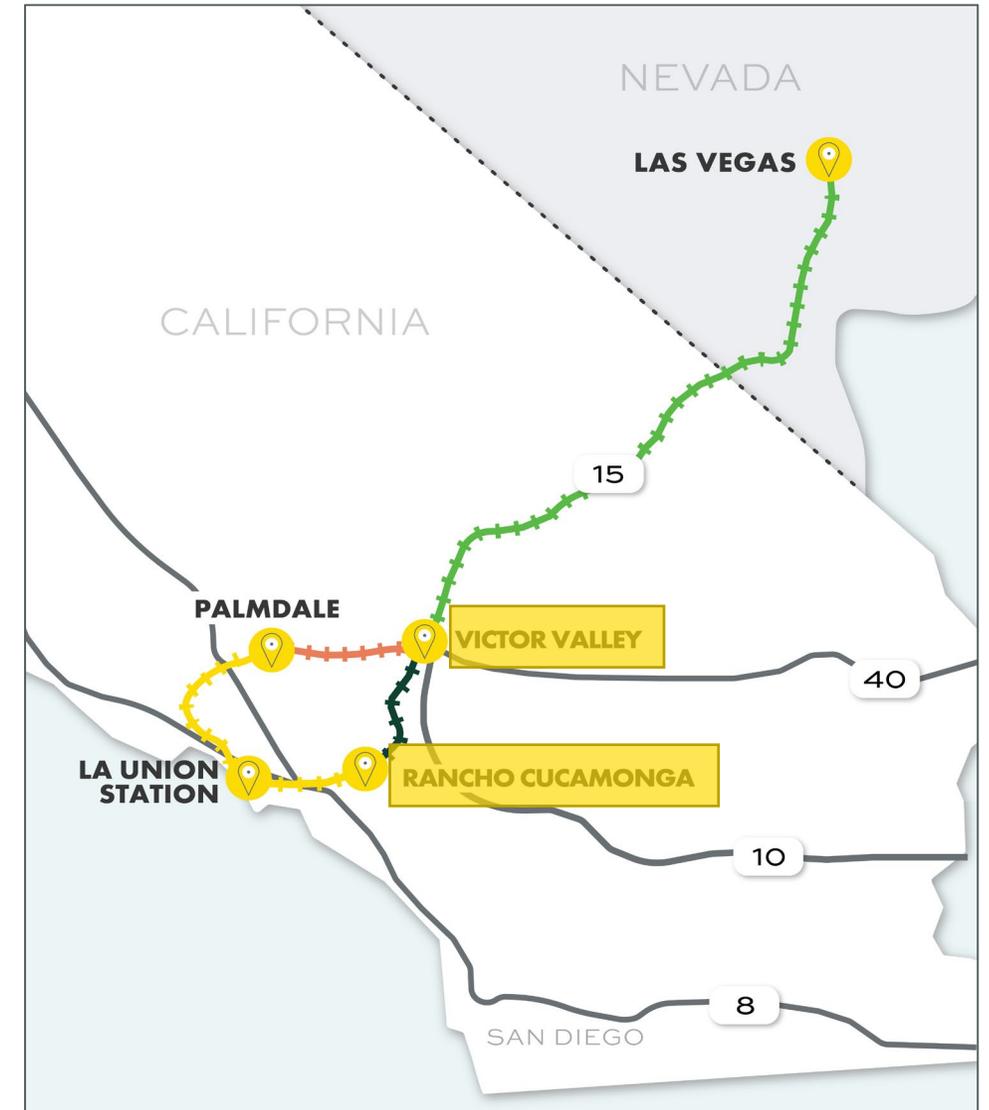
Victor Valley – Palmdale Update

- Actively participating in the **High Desert Intercity Rail Corridor Service Development Plan**, including monetary and in-kind contributions
- Memorandum of Understanding between Brightline West, Caltrans, CalSTA, and California High Speed Rail Authority to **establish the framework for extension projects, including Palmdale**, underwent public comment period
- Working collaboratively with stakeholders on **alignment and operational parameters including timetables, design criteria, station planning and access**
- **Developed financial model** to share with Ernst & Young once under contract
- Supporting **Palmdale Integrated Station Planning Process**
- **Station Location:** Palmdale Transportation Center (cross-streets Avenue Q and Sierra Highway)



Victor Valley – Rancho Cucamonga Update

- Memorandum of Understanding between Brightline West, Caltrans, CalSTA, and California High Speed Rail Authority to **establish the framework for extension projects, including Rancho Cucamonga**, underwent public comment period
- Participation in **planning activities** for station area
- **LOI between Brightline West, San Bernardino County Transportation Authority, and the City of Rancho Cucamonga** in place for lease of station land, lease in negotiation with parties
- Early design work is similar to the **approved Las Vegas – Victor Valley segment**:
 - Located in the I-15 corridor
 - No at-grade crossings
 - Fully electrified
- Schedule coordination with **Metrolink**
- **Station Location:** Adjacent to existing Metrolink Rancho Cucamonga station



Moving Forward

- Possible opportunities with federal infrastructure package
- Final approvals on the Las Vegas – Victor Valley segment, environmental work on Rancho Cucamonga extension, and work on service delivery plan on Palmdale extension will flow into early 2022
- Expect to request private activity bond allocations in the first half of 2022
- Committed to putting a shovel in the ground as soon as possible for the Victor Valley – Vegas segment and continuing our progress on extension projects
- Anticipating a \approx 3.5 year construction timeline



brightline
west

THANK YOU



GoBrightline.com

HDC Rail Component Status Update

- April 2021, HDC submits Reevaluation petition to Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Surface Transportation Board (STB) with positive meetings. HDC objective is to receive the Rail Project Record of Decision (ROD/NOD), Notice of Determination approval in late 2021/early 2022. This will **complete** clearance for the high-speed rail project component and put the HDC Rail Project in position to advance to the next phase, Preliminary Engineering. HDC must submit STB filing fee before the Board staff will review the application. A Metro/HDC Funding Agreement to pay the STB filing fee is on the July 8 Board Agenda, Item Report 8 to pay the filing fee in mid-July. After STB evaluation, HDC/Metro will request a fee waiver to return the filing funds to Metro.
- The HDC Rail Project includes changes from the design evaluated in the HDC EIR/EIS document. These changes are necessary to connect to the currently planned California HSR station in the City of Palmdale and to the redesigned Brightline West station in the Town of Apple Valley. The April 2021 Reevaluation will be used by FRA to determine if the prior results set forth in the 2016 HDC EIR/EIS remain valid. HDC staff and consultant team met with FRA on June 2, 2021, to discuss the draft Reevaluation.
- President Biden and Congressional Leaders announce substantial federal investment in Transportation Infrastructure and highlight high-speed rail projects for funding. March/April 2021, HDC submits Rail Project to Senator Alex Padilla, Congressman Mike Garcia (CD25) and Congressman Jay Obernolte (CD8) for federal legislative opportunities. Numerous positive briefings have been held.
- HDC staff and consultant team briefs federal Build America Bureau leadership to discuss a variety of funding possibilities leveraging LA County Measure M funds and CA State Rail Program funds
- May 2021, LA Metro CEO Phil Washington testifies before the House Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials specifically supporting the High Desert Corridor High-Speed Rail project.
 - Excerpt of LA Metro CEO Washington’s testimony: “...*Today, in Los Angeles, our economic growth is compromised because access to jobs is sharply constrained – not because individuals do not have the skill sets needed for a job – not because they lack the education. No, in many instances individuals simply cannot get to a job location within a reasonable amount of time.... What this tells me is that if we have a high-speed rail system - for example the High Desert Corridor intercity rail project in northern Los Angeles County that can connect Apple Valley, unincorporated Los Angeles County and Palmdale with our urban core and beyond – it would offer a chance for the American Dream to be in reached - again - for a new generation of Americans. A high-speed rail project along the High Desert Rail Corridor would dramatically reduce commute times by connecting some of the fastest growing residential, commercial and industrial areas in Southern California, such as the cities of Palmdale, Lancaster, Adelanto, Victorville and the Town of Apple Valley and offer a potential future linkage to Las Vegas via the planned Brightline West high-speed rail project. In addition, the High Desert Rail Corridor would also connect with the California High-Speed Rail system – connecting Los Angeles to the Central Valley and the San Francisco/Bay Area.*”
- California Governor Newsom and Legislative Leaders announced revised CA budget in final approval that includes millions in investment for transportation infrastructure. Additional funds are included for the next SB1 grant cycle in Summer 2022 with funding allocations in Spring 2023 paving the way for an HDC Rail TIRCP grant application submittal in Fall, 2022.

- HDC has productive meetings with CalSTA agency officials on how the HDC Rail Project complements and is an essential part of the State Rail Program objectives.
- CA HSR Business Plan continues with environmental clearance for Southern California segments from Bakersfield to Palmdale and Palmdale to Burbank. Approvals are scheduled for Summer 2021 for the Palmdale Segment and Summer 2022 for the Burbank Segment.
- July 2021, CA HSR pursuing a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant jointly with City of Palmdale for Integrated Station Area Master Planning investing CA HSR and City of Palmdale funds as match to the grant request.
- Metro Board approved \$5 million budget for HDC Intercity Rail Service Development Plan & Funding Plan including \$3 million of HDC Measure M funds, \$1.375 million in CalSTA 2018 Transit Intercity Rail Capital Plan State grant under the Network Integration category, and \$625K from Brightline West (\$250K in cash and \$375K of in-kind contributions) for Metro to develop with HDC, Brightline West. Kick-off occurred in April 2021 with an 18-month implementation schedule.

