



**HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR
JOINT POWERS AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, October 19, 2023 – 2:00 p.m.

Members of the public are welcome to participate via computer or by phone.
Please mute phones/computer audio, until you are called to speak.

HDC JPA Board Meeting Virtual Info:

Please Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device. Please click URL to join:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87477338307?pwd=Y3hrTXhwK3J0bDNKbkhmN01rV2U0UT09>

Meeting ID: 874 7733 8307 Passcode: 009004

Please Join from Phone by Dialing +1 669 900 9128 (San Jose)

TELECONFERENCE AVAILABLE AT THESE ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS

Kathryn Barger The Langham Huntington Wentworth Room 1401 S. Oak Knoll Ave Pasadena CA 91106	Elizabeth Becerra & Bob Harriman Victorville - City Hall 14343 Civic Drive Conference Room A Victorville, CA 92392	Gabriel Reyes & Daniel Ramos Adelanto – City Hall 11600 Air Express Way Adelanto, CA 92301
Lauren Hughes-Leslie Lancaster - City Hall 44933 Fern Avenue Conference Room A Lancaster, CA 93534	Eric Ohlsen & Richard Loa Palmdale - City Hall 38300 Sierra Highway Suite A/B Palmdale, CA 93550	Ara Najarian 500 N. Brand Blvd Suite 830 Glendale, CA 91203

HDC JPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS

Chair Kathryn Barger, Supervisor, 5th Supervisorial District, Los Angeles County
Vice Chair Elizabeth Becerra, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Victorville
Gabriel Reyes, Mayor, City of Adelanto
Lauren Hughes-Leslie, City of Lancaster
Eric Ohlsen, City of Palmdale
Ara Najarian, Member, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER ALTERNATES

Richard Loa, Council Member, City of Palmdale
Bob Harriman, Council Member, City of Victorville
Daniel Ramos, Council Member, City of Adelanto

HDC JPA STAFF

Executive Director: Arthur V. Sohikian
Legal Counsel: Laura Jacobson, Deputy County Counsel, Los Angeles County

OPEN SESSION

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Kathryn Barger, Chair
- 2. ROLL CALL** – Arthur Sohikian, Secretary
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

HDC JPA is conducting business remotely. HDC JPA 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 sohikian@highdesertcorrrior.org. At this time members of the public can address the HDC JPA Board of Directors regarding any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the agency that are not separately listed on this agenda. When possible, lengthy testimony should be presented to the Board in writing and only pertinent points presented orally.

HDC JPA BOARD CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed under the Consent Calendar are routine and may be enacted by one motion. Prior to the motion to consider any action by the Board, any public comments on any of the Consent Calendar items will be heard. There will be no separate action unless Board Members request items be removed from the Consent Calendar.

- 5. HDC JPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES/RECAP OF PROCEEDINGS**

Recommended Action: Approve July 13, 2023, HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom webinar format.

HDC JPA BOARD REGULAR CALENDAR

6. Proposed 2024 HDC JPA Board of Directors Meeting Calendar

Recommendation Action: Approve Proposed HDC JPA 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Calendar

- A.** January 11, 2024, 2pm/virtual
- B.** April 11, 2024, 2pm/virtual
- C.** July 11, 2024, 2pm/virtual
- D.** October 10, 2024, 2pm/virtual

7. HDC JPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – *HDC JPA Executive Director*

Recommended Action: *Receive and file report.*

8. HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

9. ADJOURNMENT. Next HDC JPA Board Meeting virtually is January 11, 2024, 2pm.



AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 5

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: October 19, 2023

To: Board of Director Members of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency (HDC)

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

Subject: **HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes/Recap of Proceedings**

Recommendation Action:

Approve July 13, 2023, HDC JPA Board Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom webinar format.

1. July 13, 2023 HDC JPA CALL TO ORDER – Chair Barger calls virtual Board meeting to order at 2:10pm

2. ROLL CALL – Quorum Present, 4 voting members as follows:

HDC JPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS – present/voting members

Kathryn Barger, Supervisor, 5th Supervisorial District, Los Angeles County
 Gabriel Reyes, Mayor, City of Adelanto
 Richard Loa, Council Member, City of Palmdale
 Ara Najarian, Chair, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

HDC JPA STAFF

Executive Director: Arthur V. Sohikian
 Legal Counsel: Laura Jacobson, Deputy County Counsel, Los Angeles County

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Director Najarian

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – No Public Comment

5. HDC JPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES/RECAP OF PROCEEDINGS

Recommended Action: *Approve April 20, 2022, HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom webinar format.*

Approved Consent Calendar Item 5 by Motion by Director Loa, second by Director Najarian

KB	GR	RL	AN		
Y	Y	Y	Y		

6. CALIFORNIA HIGH SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT UPDATE — *LaDonna DiCamillo, Southern California Regional Director*

Recommended Action: *Receive and file report.*

HDC JPA BOARD REGULAR CALENDAR

7. HDC HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE PROCESS UPDATE – *HDC JPA Executive Director & NEPA Consulting Team*

Recommended Action: *Receive and file report.*

8. HDC JPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – *HDC JPA Executive Director*

Recommended Action: *Receive and file report.*

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nate Lichtenstein

9. HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

10. ADJOURNMENT. 2:42pm. Next HDC JPA Board Meeting is October 19, 2023, 2pm.



AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 6
High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: October 19, 2023
To: Board of Director Members of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency (HDC)
From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

Subject: Proposed 2024 HDC JPA Board of Directors Meeting Calendar

Recommendation Action: Approve Proposed HDC JPA 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Calendar

- A.** January 11, 2024, 2pm/virtual
- B.** April 11, 2024, 2pm/virtual
- C.** July 11, 2024, 2pm/virtual
- D.** October 10, 2024, 2pm/virtual

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact currently.



AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 7

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: October 19, 2023

To: Board of Director Members of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency (HDC)

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

Subject: HDC JPA Executive Director Report

Recommended Action: Receive and File Report

1. High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project in Federal NEPA Environmental Process

The HDC JPA submitted the High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project petition for Reevaluation to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Surface Transportation Board (STB) in April 2021. The FRA is the Lead Agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental clearance process, which they launched in February 2023.

The High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project objective is to progress with the FRA NEPA process to receive the Record of Decision (ROD) and Notice of Determination (NOD) approval in 2024. With California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) concurrence, this will complete environmental clearance for the high-speed rail project to advance to the next phase of Project Development, which is to conduct 30% level of design engineering.

On September 27, 2023, the FRA sent letters to Re-initiate the Invitation of Consultation Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Due to recent HDC High Speed Rail project updates, the FRA letter seeks to: 1) re-initiate Section 106 consultation for the Project; 2) provide the updated Project background and Project description; 3) determine agency/tribe interest in continuing as a Consulting Party to the Project; and 4) invite Consulting Parties to consultation workshops proposed for October 2023.

2. Federal and State Grant Opportunities Update

On January 26, 2023, the Metro Board of Directors approved \$8.5 million in Measure M HDC funds to use as a local match to the state and federal grant submittals.

On April 24, 2023, CalSTA announced the award of \$8 million in Cycle 6 SB1 2022 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) grant funds to the HDC JPA High Speed Rail Project. TIRCP Info can be found at <https://calsta.ca.gov/subject-areas/transit-intercity-rail-capital-prog>. The HDC JPA \$8 million grant award allocation of funds letter request is scheduled for the California Transportation Commission December 7, 2023, meeting agenda. HDC JPA request letter is contained in Attachment A.

On March 27, 2023, the HDC JPA submitted a grant application to the FRA for the Corridor Identification and Development Program seeking \$500,000 and entrance into the Program. The Corridor ID Program Information can be found at

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/12/20/2022-27559/notice-of-solicitation-of-corridor-proposals-and-funding-opportunity-for-the-corridor-identification>

FRA Corridor ID Program grant award announcements are likely in November/December 2023.

3. HDC JPA in dialogue with Southern California Trades Councils & Rail Labor Unions

The HDC JPA has initiated a dialogue with labor unions for the use of highly skilled union labor in essential jobs required to construct, operate, and maintain the HDC High Speed Rail project. The HDC JPA understands the importance of utilizing union labor in Southern California to construct, operate and maintain the high-speed rail project and seeks to bring memorandum of understanding (MOU) agreements to the January 11, 2024, HDC JPA Board meeting.

One MOU would be for the construction of the project employing workers of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council and the San Bernardino - Riverside Building and Construction Trades Council.

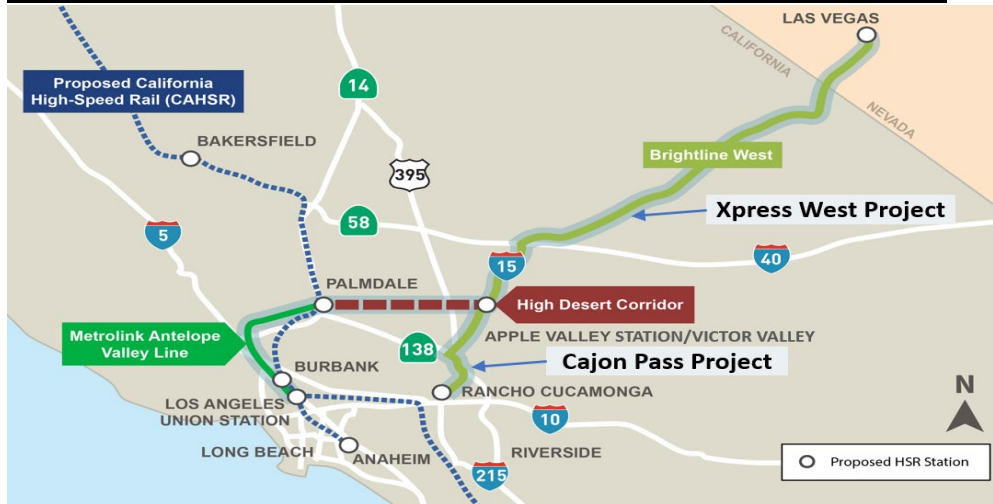
The second MOU would be to operate and maintain the HDC High Speed Rail project with workers from the High-Speed Rail Labor Coalition comprised of 13 rail unions representing more than 160,000 freight, regional, commuter, and passenger railroad workers in the United States.

The High-Speed Rail Labor Coalition members include the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes Division, Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers-Mechanical and Engineering Department, National Conference of Firemen and Oilers 32BJ/SEIU, Transportation Communications Union, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Brotherhood of Railway Carmen, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Transport Workers Union of America, American Train Dispatchers Association, International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers-Transportation Department, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

4. HDC JPA FY24 Work Program Implementation

On May 25, 2023, the Metro Board of Directors unanimously approved the HDC JPA FY24 Budget Work Program of \$1,947,500 from Measure M funds. As part of the HDC FY24 Work Program, the HDC JPA entered an MOU on September 5, 2023, with Los Angeles County Public Works to provide contracting and other supportive services for the procurement of professional services and architectural and engineering services. As part of the FY24 Work Program, the HDC JPA is currently working with LA County Public Works and LA County Counsel on two contracting opportunities: one to procure Financial Advisory Services and another to procure Project Management Support Services.

5. High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project Map & Project Highlights



2016: High Desert Corridor Multi-purpose corridor receives California CEQA clearance which included a highway and high-speed rail line.

2018: High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority (HDC) supports study of an alternative to the HDC

2016 Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA), Highway Component and decides to focus on first phase as the High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project of the LPA.

2020: Caltrans declares No Build for the highway portion.

April 2021: HDC JPA submits Reevaluation petition to Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Surface Transportation Board (STB) to receive NEPA clearance and receive the Rail Project Record of Decision (ROD/NOD).

The High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project proposes a 54-mile corridor (Palmdale to Victor Valley) that can be traveled in roughly 30-minutes providing future connection to the California High Speed Rail Project and the Brightline West Xpress West Project.

One station in Palmdale and one station in Victor Valley: Proposed integration with Palmdale California High Speed Rail Station and Brightline West Desert Xpress Victor Valley Station.

The estimated cost of the HDC Rail Project is \$5.54B in year of expenditure dollars, calculated based on the assumed service operations in 2031 and an escalation rate at 3% per year. Final Design and Construction is estimated at \$3.6B of the \$5.54B Project estimate. Environmental clearance could accommodate doubled track. Future design and cost considerations will determine.

Nearly the entire 54-mile route of the HDC high-speed rail project is within Equity Focused Communities in the high desert communities of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties.

The HDC Rail Project is consistent with the CA State Rail Plan's objectives to improve connectivity of the California statewide rail network. The HDC Rail Project supports the state's greenhouse gas reduction efforts and provides economic development and equity benefits for a region comprised of many historically underserved, low-income, and disadvantaged communities.



October 4, 2023

Sameh Hegazi, MS. PE
 Senior Transportation Engineer, Project Management & Technical Support
 Office of Project Development, Management, & Delivery
 Division of Local Assistance
 1120 N Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr Hegazi:

RE: Allocation Request – High Desert Intercity High-Speed Rail Corridor Preliminary Engineering

On behalf of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency (HDC JPA) member jurisdictions: Los Angeles County (5th Supervisor District), Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Cities of Adelanto, Lancaster, Palmdale, and Victorville, is requesting the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to allocate \$8.0 million in Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) Cycle 6 at the December 2023 meeting to the project. The allocation will allow the HDC JPA to begin 30% preliminary design plans and completion of the necessary environmental clearance.

The project was awarded \$8.0 million of TIRCP Cycle 6 grant in April 2023 for project development, including completion of environmental clearance and 30% preliminary engineering. This will be the first allocation by the CTC to the HDC High Speed Rail Project.

High Desert Intercity High-Speed Rail Corridor Preliminary Engineering Funding Allocation Request			
Allocation Amount Requested		Date of CTC Meeting	
\$8,000,000		December 7, 2023	
Project Information			
Funding Program	Program Cycle	Project Component:	Project Phase:
TIRCP	6 -2023	Preliminary Engineering & Design Plans, & complete environmental documents	PA&ED
Local Agency: High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency			
Project Name: High Desert Intercity High-Speed Rail Corridor Preliminary Engineering			



To support this allocation request, please refer to the attached documents:

- Program Allocation Plan, October 4, 2023
- Allocation Request Form, October 4, 2023

If you have any questions related to this allocation request, please contact Arthur Sohikian, Executive Director at (213) 379-1551 or sohikian@highdesertcorridor.org

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. V. Sohikian".

Arthur V. Sohikian
Executive Director
High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency
www.highdesertcorridor.org