



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

**MEETING AGENDA**

**Thursday, April 11, 2024 – 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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81759187298?pwd=ak41dkNvM0dMTnp3Wk5iaE9ENnVGZz09>

Meeting ID: 817 5918 7298 Passcode: 264099

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

Meeting ID: 817 5918 7298 Passcode: 264099

**TELECONFERENCE AVAILABLE AT THESE ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS**

<b>Kathryn Barger</b> County of Los Angeles Hall of Administration 500 W. Temple Street Conference Room 864 Los Angeles, CA 90012 and <b>Remote Location</b>	<b>Elizabeth Becerra &amp; Bob Harriman</b> Victorville - City Hall 14343 Civic Drive Conference Room A Victorville, CA 92392	<b>Gabriel Reyes &amp; Daniel Ramos</b> Adelanto – City Hall 11600 Air Express Way Adelanto, CA 92301
<b>Lauren Hughes-Leslie</b> Lancaster - City Hall 44933 Fern Avenue Conference Room A Lancaster, CA 93534	<b>Eric Ohlsen &amp; Richard Loa</b> Palmdale - City Hall 38300 Sierra Highway Suite B Palmdale, CA 93550	<b>Ara Najarian</b> 500 N. Brand Blvd Suite 830 Glendale, CA 91203

**HDC JPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS**

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

**HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER ALTERNATES**

Richard Loa, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Palmdale  
Bob Harriman, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Victorville  
Daniel Ramos, Mayor Pro Tem, 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 V. 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 V. Sohikian at [sohikian@highdesertcorrrior.org](mailto: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 January 11, 2024, HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom webinar format.

**HDC JPA BOARD REGULAR CALENDAR**

**6. HDC JPA PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 BUDGET**

**Recommended Action:**

- A. Approve High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget of \$6,174,000. Attachment A – HDC JPA Proposed FY24-25 Budget and HDC JPA FY23-24 Approved Budget.
- B. Authorize the Executive Director and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary funding agreements with Metro.
- C. Authorize the Executive Director contractual signing authority for an amount not to exceed \$299,000.
- D. Authorize the Executive Director to continue the agreement with Los Angeles County Public Works for procurement support services.

**7. RESOLUTION OF THE HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY TO EXECUTE A MASTER AGREEMENT, AND PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTS FOR STATE-FUNDED TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**

**Recommended Action:**

- A. Approve HDC JPA Resolution FY23/24-01 (Attachment A) of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Authorizing the Chair of the Board of Directors and Executive Director of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency to Execute Master Agreement (No. 64HDCJPAMA), and Program Supplements for State-Funded Transportation Projects.
- B. Authorize the Chair of the Board of Directors, Executive Director, and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary funding agreements.

**8. COMMUNITY WORKFORCE AGREEMENT FOR HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR PROJECT WITH THE CALIFORNIA STATE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA AND LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTIES BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL AND THE SAN BERNARDINO-RIVERSIDE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL AND THE SIGNATORY CRAFT COUNCILS AND UNIONS**

**Recommended Action:**

- A. Approve Community Workforce Agreement for High Desert Corridor Project with State Building and Construction Trades Council of California and Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, and the San Bernardino-Riverside Building and Construction Trades Council and the Signatory Craft Councils and Unions.
- B. Authorize the Chair of the Board of Directors, Executive Director, and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary agreements.

**9. HIGH SPEED RAIL LABOR COALITION AGREEMENT TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT**

**Recommended Action:**

- A. Approve High Speed Rail Labor Coalition Agreement with 13 Rail Unions to Operate and Maintain the High Desert Corridor High Speed Rail Project.
- B. Authorize the Chair of the Board of Directors, Executive Director, and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary agreements.

**10. HDC JPA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH AVS CONSULTING, INC. FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND AGENCY ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Recommended Action:**

Approve the AVS Consulting, Inc. Contract Extension, including subcontractors, for a not-to-exceed annual amount of \$1,188,800 to conduct the agency management activities of the HDC JPA including those of the Executive Director and Agency Administration Support Services with a period of performance from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, pending funding of the FY2024-2025 adopted budget.

**11. HDC JPA CONTRACT MODIFICATION TO EXISTING AMENDMENT NO 9 WITH TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS**

**Recommended Action:**

Approve a modification to the existing Transportation Solutions Contract Amendment No 9, including subcontractors, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$358,000 to conduct additional tasks that have come up in the current fiscal year to support the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Record of Decision (ROD) processes, with a period of performance to coincide with the current period of performance that runs from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. The current year Budget of \$710,000 for this item will be adjusted with the \$358,000 modification for a revised total amount of \$1,068,000. The \$358,000 modification to this contract does not increase the overall HDC JPA FY24 Budget because the funds will be reallocated from unexpended funds in the current budget. These additional tasks are related to right-of-way planning and environmental/conceptual engineering design activities to reflect the minor adjustment made to the route alignment.

**12. HDC JPA CONTRACT AMENDMENT 10 WITH TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS**

**Recommended Action:**

Approve the Transportation Solutions Contract Amendment 10, including subcontractors, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$977,000 to complete the project's remaining tasks related to National Environmental Policy Act and Record of Decision processes with a period of performance from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, pending funding in the FY2024-2025 adopted budget.

**13. HDC JPA EXPERT PROFESSIONAL FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICES FOR THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT**

**Recommended Action:**

- A.** Find that the award of contract is not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.
- B.** Award contract to InfraStrategies LLC for Professional Financial and Business Advisory Services in the amount of \$3,500,000 for a three-year base contract with two one-year options.
- C.** Authorize the Executive Director and Los Angeles County Counsel, representing HDC JPA, to execute the contract.
- D.** Authorize the Executive Director to execute amendments to: (a) exercise the term extension options to extend the term of the Agreement for up to two additional one-year periods; (b) add, delete, and/or change Agreement terms and conditions that are non-substantive, required by the HDC JPA Board, or necessary for compliance with applicable law; (c) approve necessary changes to scope of services; (d) supplement the initial not-to-exceed contract amount of \$3,500,000 by up to 15% contingency of the original contract amount based on workload requirements; (e) to suspend and/or terminate the contract for convenience.

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

**Recommended Action:** *Receive and file report.*

**15. HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**16. ADJOURNMENT. Next HDC JPA Board Meeting is July 11, 2024, 2 pm**



**AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 5**

**High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency**

Date: April 11, 2024

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 January 11, 2024, HDC JPA Board Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom webinar format.

**1. January 11, 2024 HDC JPA CALL TO ORDER – Chair Barger calls virtual Board meeting to order at 2:02pm**

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

**HDC JPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS – present/voting members**

Kathryn Barger, Supervisor, 5<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District, Los Angeles County

Elizabeth Becerra, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Victorville

Gabriel Reyes, Mayor, City of Adelanto

Eric Ohlsen, Council Member, City of Palmdale

**HDC JPA STAFF**

Executive Director: Arthur V. Sohikian

Legal Counsel: Laura Jacobson, Deputy County Counsel, Los Angeles County

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Director Barger**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – No Public Comment**

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

**Recommended Action:** Approve October 19, 2023, HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom webinar format.

**Approved Consent Calendar Item 5 by Motion by Vice Chair Becerra, second by Chair Barger**

KB	EB	GR	EO		
Y	Y	Y	Y		

**HDC JPA BOARD REGULAR CALENDAR**

**6. CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY TRANSIT AND INTERCITY RAIL CAPITAL PROGRAM MASTER AGREEMENT WITH HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR AGENCY**

**Recommended Action:**

- A. Approve California State Transportation Agency Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program Master Agreement (No. 64HDCJPAMA) with High Desert Corridor Agency.
- B. Authorize the Chair and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary grant funding agreements with the State of California.

**Approved Regular Calendar Item 6 by Motion by Vice Chair Becerra, second by Director Reyes**

KB	EB	GR	EO		
Y	Y	Y	Y		

**7. US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION CORRIDOR IDENTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT WITH HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR AGENCY**

**Recommended Action:**

- A. Approve US Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration Corridor Identification and Development Program Grant Agreement with High Desert Corridor Agency.
- B. Authorize the Executive Director and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary grant funding agreements with the Federal Railroad Administration.

**Approved Regular Calendar Item 6 by Motion by Director Ohlsen, second by Chair Barger**

KB	EB	GR	EO		
Y	Y	Y	Y		

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

**Recommended Action:** *Receive and file report.*

**9. HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**10. ADJOURNMENT. **Board Meeting was adjourned at 2:25pm.****

**Next HDC JPA Board Meeting virtually is April 11, 2024, 2pm.**



## **AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 6**

### **High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency**

Date: April 11, 2024

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

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

Subject: **HDC JPA PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 BUDGET**

#### **Recommended Action:**

- A. Approve the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget of \$6,174,000. Attachment A – HDC JPA Proposed FY24-25 Budget and HDC JPA Current FY23-24 Budget.
- B. Authorize the Executive Director and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary funding agreements with Metro.
- C. Authorize the Executive Director contractual signing authority for an amount not to exceed \$299,000.
- D. Authorize the Executive Director to continue the agreement with Los Angeles County Public Works for procurement support services.

#### **Highlights of Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget/Background:**

- Extend the contract for one year with Transportation Solutions to complete the CEQA addenda/NEPA environmental clearance process with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) as the federal lead with the petition filed with the Surface Transportation Board for interoperability with other high-speed rail systems. With the completion of these environmental compliance items, the HDC JPA high speed rail project will be positioned to pursue federal, state, and local funds for the next phase of development which is design/engineering. Contract extension for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 for a not to exceed cost of \$977,350.
- Extend the professional services contract with AVS Consulting, Inc. to provide the HDC JPA with executive director and agency administration support services including subcontracting additional senior level management and administrative support services staff to conduct project management functions and additional administrative activities. As the high speed rail project develops, AVS Consulting, Inc. will need to add subcontracted staff with no change to the hourly rate structure. The contract extension is for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 for a not to exceed amount of \$1,188,800.



- Financial Advisory Services firm funding for ongoing financial planning, modeling, and analysis that will be required to support project development into the preliminary engineering phase that includes to further develop and refine the funding plan, analyze options for local funding contributions toward the project, assess alternative delivery options and the viability of public-private partnerships through a Value for Money analysis, provide updated ridership forecasting as needed, perform additional financial modeling and diligence on financing options, identify credit enhancement strategies, and support discussions with potential market participants. For FY25, it is estimated that \$1,165,000 will fund the FA contractor to perform work at a level of effort that may be required for financial modeling and grant management. The total FA contract is \$3.5M over three years.
- Procure the professional services of a Program Management/Construction Management Support Services (PMC) firm to the HDC JPA with overseeing the work related to Preliminary Engineering (PE) including development of statement of work, contract development, contract administration support, federal and state grant agreement compliance, procurement support services, set and monitor program control and project scheduling control functions, cost estimating, configuration management, project management, and other support services. For FY25, it is estimated that \$1,035,000 will fund the PMC contractor to perform work at a level of effort that will be commensurate with transitioning from the environmental phase into the PE phase of the project that will consist of developing the Preliminary Engineering (PE) statement of work and contract development.
- Service Development Plan (SDP). Metro will continue as lead on the HDC Service Development Plan (SDP) to be submitted to FRA for final consideration in FY25. The current January 2023 SDP requires additional analysis and cost updates due to the alignment, structural, and operational changes made to the Project since January 2023 and new FRA requirements. This budgeted amount will be reimbursed to the HDC JPA through the Federal Railroad Administration Corridor Identification Grant funds awarded in December 2023.
- The County of Los Angeles will be providing auditing, controller, procurement support and legal counsel services for an estimated amount of \$665,000 from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.
- Authorize the Executive Director to continue the agreement with Los Angeles County Public Works for procurement support services.
- Community-based stakeholder engagement funding is available and will continue to be strategically important in the upcoming phase of project development.
- The Executive Director signing authority is \$299,000, below the \$330,000 signing authority of the County Director of Public Works per Los Angeles County Code Section 2.18.030.

## High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025

Item	HDC JPA FY25 Budget Description	Proposed FY2025 Amount	Adopted FY2024 Amount
1	<p><b>Re-evaluate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) &amp; Record of Decision (ROD):</b> Complete the remaining tasks for NEPA Re-evaluation/RE-validation and Record of Decision (ROD) with Final Review by Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). Due to Federal review of submittals this task is scheduled to be completed by FRA in in FY25. Tasks for FY25 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Addressing FRA comments, provide revised version for FRA final review, Prepare final version for NEPA Re-evaluation and prepare a ROD for FRA final approval.</li> <li>-Draft a Letter of Concurrence and re-initiate ROD Section 7 consult.</li> </ul> <p>Complete Section 106 process, Tribe Consultation. Prepare CEQA addendum for state funding. Conclude Surface Transportation Board (STB) Petition Approval process.</p> <p>Contractors: Transportation Solutions: \$110,000                      Epic Land Solutions, Inc.: \$132,350                      Circlepoint: \$390,000                      Venable LLP: \$135,000                      HDR: \$135,000                      AECOM: \$75,000</p>	\$977,350	\$710,000
2	<p><b>HDC JPA Management:</b> Oversee agency management including technical analysis, grant applications, budgetary activities, equity focused planning, administration, engineering, right-of-way planning, stakeholder engagement and communications. For FY25, HDC JPA management functions will be augmented to meet the increased project needs requiring the services of a senior level project management/planning, engineering and right-of-way planning support, communications staff, and administrative support staff. As the project progresses beyond the environmental phase into preliminary engineering and final design, the HDC JPA requires additional staffing to support the increasing complexity, expertise, and level of effort.</p> <p>Contractors:                      AVS Consulting, Inc.: \$296,400                      Cal Strategic Management: \$227,400                      Other Support Staff Services: \$665,000</p>	\$1,188,800	\$430,000

## High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025

3	<p><b>Program Management Support and Construction Management Support Services (PMC):</b> Procure the professional services of a program management support and construction management support services (PMC) firm to support HDC JPA with overseeing the work related to the phases of Engineering and Design, Construction, Transition to Operational Control, and Closeout. This work includes development of statements of work, contract development, contract administration support, local, regional, state, federal, and interjurisdictional grant agreement compliance, procurement support services, set and monitor program controls, project management, third party management including utility relocation, right-of-way acquisition &amp; relocation plans and implementation, cost scheduling &amp; control functions, cost estimating, environmental compliance, configuration management, transition to operational management, and other related support services. For FY25, the PMC contractor will be performing work at a level of effort that will be commensurate with transitioning from the environmental phase into the Preliminary Engineering phase of the project consisting of developing the Preliminary Engineering and Design (PE) statement of work and contract development, and developing a right-of-way acquisition and relocation plan. This budgeted amount is estimated for a 6 month work period during FY 25. Estimate is based on a previous three-year look ahead that will be revised to reflect the updated Service Development Plan assumptions and costs.</p>	\$1,035,000	\$240,000
4	<p><b>Financial Advisor Services:</b> Conduct ongoing financial planning &amp; analysis, modeling, and structural management analysis to support project development into the preliminary engineering phase that includes identifying, developing, and refining the project funding plan, analyze options for local, state, and federal funding contributions toward the project, assess alternative project delivery options and the viability of public-private partnerships through a Value for Money analysis, provide updated ridership forecasting as needed, provide organizational structuring options to adapt to the future growth of the HDC JPA. perform additional financial modeling and diligence on financing options, identify credit enhancement strategies, provide right-of-way coordination to the Program Management Firm as needed, and support discussions with potential market participants.</p>	\$1,165,000	\$135,000
5	<p><b>Service Development Plan (SDP) Update:</b> Metro will continue as lead on the HDC Service Development Plan (SDP) to be submitted to FRA for final consideration in FY25. The current January 2023 SDP requires additional analysis and cost updates due to the alignment, structural, and operational changes made to the Project since Jan 2023. This budgeted amount will be reimbursed to the HDC JPA through the Federal Railroad Administration Corridor Identification Grant funds awarded in Dec 2023.</p>	\$500,000	N/A
6	<p><b>LA Metro Regional Rail Program Management Staff Support:</b> Provide program management staff support and assistance on an as-needed basis to support implementing HDC JPA program management functions and related activities.</p>	\$350,000	N/A

## High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025

7	<b>County of Los Angeles Treasury, Auditor-Controller, Legal Counsel, Public Works Staff Support:</b> Monthly Support for Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable functions, Legal Counsel Support, Budget Oversight, Board Meetings staffing, Agency Oversight & Compliance Items, Procurement /Contract Services plus Request for Proposals preparation and Oversight, and contract execution.	\$665,000	\$175,000
8	<b>Stakeholder and Public Engagement and Planning Assistance:</b> Provide communications, community engagement, and other related planning assistance to support the Agency communications and planning functions.	\$185,000	\$165,000
9	<b>Audit Services: County of Los Angeles Audit Services</b>	\$30,000	\$20,000
10	<b>LA Metro Funding Agreement Audit Services</b>	\$25,350	\$20,000
11	<b>Multi-Media Promotion, Materials &amp; Advertising</b>	\$30,000	\$30,000
12	<b>IT Support, GIS, Software &amp; Website Mgmt.</b>	\$22,500	\$22,500
13	<b>Total Proposed FY25 Budget</b>	<b>\$6,174,000</b>	<b>\$1,947,500</b>
14	<b>Less: Reserve Fund-Cash on Hand as of March 31, 2024</b>	<b>\$1,800,000</b>	N/A
15	<b>Measure M Funds Requested for FY25 Budget</b>	<b>\$4,374,000</b>	<b>\$1,947,500</b>

## High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025

Item	HDC JPA FY25 Budget Description	Amount
1	<p><b>Re-evaluate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) &amp; Record of Decision (ROD):</b> Complete the remaining tasks for NEPA Re-evaluation/RE-validation and Record of Decision (ROD) with Final Review by Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). Due to Federal review of submittals this task is scheduled to be completed by FRA in in FY25. Tasks for FY25 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Addressing FRA comments, provide revised version for FRA final review, Prepare final version for NEPA Re-evaluation and prepare a ROD for FRA final approval.</li> <li>-Draft a Letter of Concurrence and re-initiate ROD Section 7 consult. Complete Section 106 process, Tribe Consultation. Prepare CEQA addendum for state funding. Conclude Surface Transportation Board (STB) Petition Approval process.</li> </ul> <p>Contractors: Transportation Solutions: \$110,000                      Epic Land Solutions, Inc.: \$132,350                      Circlepoint: \$390,000                      Venable LLP: \$135,000                      HDR: \$135,000                      AECOM: \$75,000</p>	\$977,350
2	<p><b>HDC JPA Management:</b> Oversee agency management including technical analysis, grant applications, budgetary activities, equity focused planning, administration, engineering, right-of-way planning, stakeholder engagement and communications. For FY25, HDC JPA management functions will be augmented to meet the increased project needs requiring the services of a senior level project management/planning, engineering and right-of-way planning support, communications staff, and administrative support staff. As the project progresses beyond the environmental phase into preliminary engineering and final design, the HDC JPA requires additional staffing to support the increasing complexity, expertise, and level of effort.</p> <p>Contractors:                      AVS Consulting, Inc.: \$296,400                      Cal Strategic Management: \$227,400                      Other Support Staff Services: \$665,000</p>	\$1,188,800
3	<p><b>Program Management Support and Construction Management Support Services (PMC):</b> Procure the professional services of a program management support and construction management support services (PMC) firm to support HDC JPA with overseeing the work related to the phases of Engineering and Design, Construction, Transition to Operational Control, and Closeout. This work includes development of statements of work, contract development, contract administration support, local, regional, state, federal, and interjurisdictional grant agreement compliance, procurement support services, set and monitor program controls, project management, third party management including utility relocation, right-of-way acquisition &amp; relocation plans and implementation, cost scheduling &amp; control functions, cost estimating, environmental compliance, configuration management, transition to operational management, and other related support services. For FY25, the PMC contractor will be performing work at a level of effort that will be commensurate with transitioning from the environmental phase into the Preliminary Engineering phase of the project consisting of developing the Preliminary Engineering and Design (PE) statement of work and contract development, and developing a right-of-way acquisition and relocation plan. This budgeted amount is estimated for a 6 month work period during FY 25. Estimate is based on a previous three-year look ahead that will be revised to reflect the updated Service Development Plan assumptions and costs.</p>	\$1,035,000

## High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025

4	<p><b>Financial Advisor Services:</b> Conduct ongoing financial planning &amp; analysis, modeling, and structural management analysis to support project development into the preliminary engineering phase that includes identifying, developing, and refining the project funding plan, analyze options for local, state, and federal funding contributions toward the project, assess alternative project delivery options and the viability of public-private partnerships through a Value for Money analysis, provide updated ridership forecasting as needed, provide organizational structuring options to adapt to the future growth of the HDC JPA. perform additional financial modeling and diligence on financing options, identify credit enhancement strategies, provide right-of-way coordination to the Program Management Firm as needed, and support discussions with potential market participants.</p>	\$1,165,000
5	<p><b>Service Development Plan (SDP) Update:</b> Metro will continue as lead on the HDC Service Development Plan (SDP) to be submitted to FRA for final consideration in FY25. The current January 2023 SDP requires additional analysis and cost updates due to the alignment, structural, and operational changes made to the Project since Jan 2023. This budgeted amount will be reimbursed to the HDC JPA through the Federal Railroad Administration Corridor Identification Grant funds awarded in Dec 2023.</p>	\$500,000
6	<p><b>LA Metro Regional Rail Program Management Staff Support:</b> Provide program management staff support and assistance on an as-needed basis to support implementing HDC JPA program management functions and related activities.</p>	\$350,000
7	<p><b>County of Los Angeles Treasury, Auditor-Controller, Legal Counsel, Public Works Staff Support:</b> Monthly Support for Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable functions, Legal Counsel Support, Budget Oversight, Board Meetings staffing, Agency Oversight &amp; Compliance Items, Procurement /Contract Services plus Request for Proposals preparation and Oversight, and contract execution.</p>	\$665,000
8	<p><b>Stakeholder and Public Engagement and Planning Assistance:</b> Provide communications, community engagement, and other related planning assistance to support the Agency communications and planning functions.</p>	\$185,000
9	<p><b>Audit Services: County of Los Angeles Audit Services</b></p>	\$30,000
10	<p><b>LA Metro Funding Agreement Audit Services</b></p>	\$25,350
11	<p><b>Multi-Media Promotion, Materials &amp; Advertising</b></p>	\$30,000
12	<p><b>IT Support, GIS, Software &amp; Website Mgmt.</b></p>	\$22,500
13	<p><b>Total Proposed FY25 Budget</b></p>	<b>\$6,174,000</b>
14	<p><b>Less: Reserve Fund-Cash on Hand as of March 31, 2024</b></p>	<b>\$1,800,000</b>
15	<p><b>Measure M Funds Requested for FY25 Budget</b></p>	<b>\$4,374,000</b>



## AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 7

### High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: April 11, 2024

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

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

**Subject: RESOLUTION OF THE HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY TO EXECUTE A MASTER AGREEMENT, AND PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTS FOR STATE-FUNDED TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**

#### **Recommended Action:**

- A. Approve HDC JPA Resolution FY23/24-01 (Attachment A) of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Authorizing the Chair of the Board of Directors and Executive Director of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency to Execute Master Agreement (No. 64HDCJPAMA), and Program Supplements for State-Funded Transportation Projects.
  
- B. Authorize the Chair of the Board of Directors, Executive Director, and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary funding agreements.

#### **Background**

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

On April 24, 2023, California State Transportation Agency (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>.

On December 7, 2023, the California Transportation Commission allocated the HDC JPA the \$8 million TIRCP grant to the HDC JPA.

On January 11, 2024, the HDC JPA Board of Directors approved entering into the CalSTA required Master Agreement with the HDC JPA as the grantee.

The State of California has requested a Resolution of the HDC JPA Board be approved (Attachment A).



**April 11, 2024, High Desert Corridor JPA Board Item 7 – ATTACHMENT A**

**RESOLUTION NO. FY23/24-01**

**RESOLUTION OF THE HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY  
AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR OF THE HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY TO EXECUTE  
A MASTER AGREEMENT, AND PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTS FOR STATE-FUNDED  
TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**

**WHEREAS**, the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency (“HDC JPA”) received an \$8 million grant award from the California State Transportation Agency’s Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) to support preliminary engineering and other project development activities for the High Desert Corridor Intercity High-Speed Rail Project (Project) spanning 54 miles between Palmdale (Los Angeles County) and the Victor Valley (San Bernardino County).

**WHEREAS**, The California Transportation Commission allocated the HDC JPA the \$8 million TIRCP grant award at their December 7, 2023 meeting.

**WHEREAS**, the statutes related to state-funded transportation projects require a local or regional implementing agency to execute an agreement with the Department before it can be reimbursed for project expenditures; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department utilizes Master Agreements for State-Funded Transit Projects, along with associated Program Supplements, for the purpose of administering and reimbursing state transit funds to local agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the HDC JPA wishes to delegate authorization to execute these agreements and any amendments thereto to the Chair of the HDC JPA Board of Directors and HDC JPA Executive Director.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Board of Directors that the fund recipient agrees to comply with all conditions and requirements set forth in this state agreement and applicable statutes, regulations, and guidelines for all state-funded transportation projects.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the either the Chair of the HDC JPA Board of Directors and HDC JPA Executive Director are authorized to execute the Master Agreement, all Award Agreements, and all Program Supplements for State-Funded Transit Projects and any Amendments thereto with the California Department of Transportation on behalf of the HDC JPA.





PASSED AND ADOPTED by the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency this 11<sup>h</sup> day of April 2024,  
by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTENTION

---

Kathryn Barger  
Chair Board of Directors, HDC JPA

Attest:

Approved as to Form:

---

Arthur V, Sohikian  
Secretary, HDC JPA

---

Laura Jacobson  
HDC JPA County Counsel



## **AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 8**

### **High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency**

Date: April 11, 2024

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

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

**Subject: COMMUNITY WORKFORCE AGREEMENT FOR HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR PROJECT WITH THE CALIFORNIA STATE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA AND LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTIES BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL AND THE SAN BERNARDINO-RIVERSIDE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL AND THE SIGNATORY CRAFT COUNCILS AND UNIONS**

#### **Recommended Action:**

- A.** Approve Community Workforce Agreement for High Desert Corridor Project with the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California and Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, and the San Bernardino-Riverside Building and Construction Trades Council and the Signatory Craft Councils and Unions.
  
- B.** Authorize the Chair of the Board of Directors, Executive Director, and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary agreements.

#### **Background**

The HDC JPA initiated 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.

This report seeks authorization to enter into an agreement 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.



## **AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 9**

### **High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency**

Date: April 11, 2024

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

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

**Subject: HIGH SPEED RAIL LABOR COALITION AGREEMENT TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT**

#### **Recommended Action:**

- A.** Approve High Speed Rail Labor Coalition Agreement with 13 Rail Unions to Operate and Maintain the High Desert Corridor High Speed Rail Project.
- B.** Authorize the Chair of the Board of Directors, Executive Director, and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary agreements.

#### **Background**

The HDC JPA initiated 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.

This report seeks authorization to enter into an agreement for the operation and maintenance 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 Employees 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.



**AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 10**  
**High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency**

Date: April 11, 2024

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

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

Subject: **HDC JPA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH AVS CONSULTING, INC. FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND AGENCY ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Recommended Action:**

Approve the AVS Consulting, Inc. Contract Extension, including subcontractors, for a not-to-exceed annual amount of \$1,188,800 to conduct the agency management activities of the HDC JPA including those of the Executive Director and Agency Administration Support Services with a period of performance from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, pending funding of the FY2024-2025 adopted budget.

**Background:**

In October 2020, after a public procurement process, AVS Consulting, Inc. was unanimously selected by the HDC JPA to provide contracted professional services for the Executive Director at an hourly rate of \$165, and Agency Administration Support Services at an hourly rate of \$80. In April 2023, the HDC Board extended the contract performance period with no hourly rate increase from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, for a total contract value of \$430,000.

AVS Consulting currently oversees agency management including technical analysis, grant applications, budgetary activities, equity focused planning, administration, engineering, right-of-way planning, stakeholder engagement and communications. For FY25, HDC JPA management functions will be augmented to meet the increased project needs requiring the services of a senior level project management/planning, engineering and right-of-way planning support, communications staff, and administrative support staff. As the project progresses beyond the environmental phase into preliminary engineering and final design, the HDC JPA requires additional staffing to support the increasing complexity, expertise, and level of effort.

AVS Consulting, Inc. will need to add sub-contracted staff with no change to the hourly rate structure for the period of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, for a not to exceed amount of \$1,188,800.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY  
AND AVS CONSULTING, INC.

HDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND SUPPORT SERVICES (AVS CONSULTING, Inc.)  
CONTRACT AMENDMENT

IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

AVS Consulting, Inc. Contract Amendment

Contract Amendment by and between HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY (HDC JPA) and AVS CONSULTING, INC., to provide the Agency with Executive Director and Agency Administration Support Services for the general purpose of planning, operation, and maintenance of transportation and utility corridors throughout the Counties' high deserts, as more specifically stated in the HDC Joint Powers Agreement dated September 26, 2022. The AVS Consulting, Inc. contract first became effective October 29, 2020, and changes were made on July 1, 2022 and July 1, 2023.

Section 3. is amended to read:

**3. Term and Budget**

Subject to compliance with all terms and conditions, this Contract Amendment is effective as of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, for a not-to-exceed annual amount of \$1,188,800. All other terms, conditions and covenants remain in full force and effect.

Section 17. is added to read:

**17. Electronic Signatures**

This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which so executed shall be deemed to be an original, and such counterparts shall together constitute one and the same Agreement. The parties shall be entitled to sign and transmit an electronic signature of this Agreement (whether by facsimile, PDF, or other mail 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.

All other terms, conditions and covenants remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency ("HDC JPA") and AVS Consulting, Inc. ("Consultant") have each caused this Amendment to be subscribed by its respective duly authorized officers, on its behalf.

**HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR, JPA**

**AVS CONSULTING, INC.**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**KATHRYN BARGER**  
**CHAIR, HDC JPA**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**ARTHUR V. SOHIKIAN**  
**PRESIDENT**



**AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 11**  
**High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency**

Date: April 11, 2024

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

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

**Subject: HDC JPA CONTRACT MODIFICATION TO EXISTING AMENDMENT NO 9 WITH TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS**

**Recommended Action:**

Approve a modification to the existing Transportation Solutions Contract Amendment No 9, including subcontractors, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$358,000 to conduct additional tasks that have come up in the current fiscal year to support the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Record of Decision (ROD) processes, with a period of performance to coincide with the current period of performance that runs from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. The current year Budget of \$710,000 for this item will be adjusted with the \$358,000 modification for a revised total amount of \$1,068,000. The \$358,000 modification to this contract does not increase the overall HDC JPA FY24 Budget because the funds will be reallocated from unexpended funds in the current budget. These additional tasks are related to right-of-way planning and environmental/conceptual engineering design activities to reflect the minor adjustment made to the route alignment.

**Background:**

This modification will be made to existing Amendment No. 9 ("Amendment") to the Professional Services Agreement for Rail Connector Implementation Study, upon approval by the HDC JPA Board of Directors at their Board meeting on April 11, 2024. This Amendment is made and entered into by and between the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency ("HDC JPA") and Transportation Solutions ("Consultant").

**Most Recent Prior Amendments**

On April 20, 2023, the HDC JPA entered Amendment No. 9 to the Professional Services Agreement for Rail Connector Implementation Study with Consultant for the purpose of obtaining the services of consultant to prepare the HDC Rail Component Record of Decision (ROD). Section III of Amendment No. 9 to the Agreement provided that the Term of the Agreement period was to commence upon issuance of a written Notice to Proceed issued by the HDC JPA and was to continue in full force and effect through June 30, 2024, or upon completion of the final Transportation Solutions interim report, whichever is sooner.

I. **Scope of Work**

Paragraph V of the original Agreement, Scope of Work, is hereby modified and will supplement the existing Scope of Work with the following Scope of Work:

Complete Re-evaluation/Re-validation and Record of Decision (ROD) tasks including:

- Addressing FRA comments, provide revised version for FRA review, prepare final version for NEPA Re-evaluation and prepare a ROD for FRA final approval.
- Draft a Letter of Concurrence summarizing design changes and formal re-initiation of Section 7 consultation.
- Complete Section 106 process, including Tribe Consultation
- Prepare CEQA addendum for state funding.
- Environmental and Conceptual Engineering design activities.
- Conduct Right-of -Way planning activities.
- Complete other necessary to receive NEPA and ROD approvals.

Conclude Surface Transportation Board Petition approval process and application waiver request and other related tasks to complete this phase of project development for the HDC high speed rail project. This would close out one of the major pending items for dissolution of the HDC JPA.

## II. Compensation and Invoicing

Paragraph VI of the original Agreement set forth the compensation and invoicing for the original Scope of Work and is hereby amended to add the following:

The method of payment for the expanded Scope of Work set forth in this Amendment will be based on a total sum, subject to availability and receipt of funding, not to exceed \$1,068,000.

In addition, Consultant will also be authorized to subcontract for Financial, Legal, and Engineering upon approval of the HDC JPA staff. Progress payments may be made monthly in arrears based on the percentage of Work completed by consultant or subcontractors. Consultant shall submit progress reports with its invoices. Payments to Consultant shall be made within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt and approval by the HDC JPA.

Modification to Amendment 9 is not to exceed \$358,000, the budget breakdown is as follows:

- HDR, Inc - \$226,000
- Epic Lands - \$132,000

## III. Other Terms of the Agreement

All other terms of the Agreement remain in full force and effect.

**See Following Page for Signature Page**



**Electronic Signatures**

This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which so executed shall be deemed to be an original, and such counterparts shall together constitute one and the same Agreement. The parties shall be entitled to sign and transmit an electronic signature of this Agreement (whether by facsimile, PDF, or other mail 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.

All other terms, conditions and covenants remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency ("HDC JPA") and Transportation Solutions ("Consultant") have each caused this Amendment to be subscribed by its respective duly authorized officers, on its behalf.

**HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JPA**

**TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Arthur V. Sohikian**  
**Executive Director**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Neil Peterson**  
**President**





**AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 12**  
**High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency**

Date: April 11, 2024

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

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

**Subject: HDC JPA CONTRACT AMENDMENT 10 WITH TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS**

**Recommended Action:**

Approve the Transportation Solutions Contract Amendment 10, including subcontractors, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$977,000 to complete the project's remaining tasks related to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Record of Decision (ROD) processes with a period of performance from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, pending funding in the FY2024-2025 adopted budget.

**Background:**

This Amendment No. 10 ("Amendment") to the Professional Services Agreement for Rail Connector Implementation Study, effective as of July 1, 2024, is made and entered into by and between the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency ("HDC JPA") and Transportation Solutions ("Consultant").

**Most Recent Prior Amendments**

On April 20, 2023, the HDC JPA entered Amendment No. 9 to the Professional Services Agreement for Rail Connector Implementation Study with Consultant for the purpose of obtaining the services of consultant to prepare the HDC Rail Component Record of Decision (ROD). Section III of Amendment No. 9 to the Agreement provided that the Term of the Agreement period was to commence upon issuance of a written Notice to Proceed issued by the HDC JPA and was to continue in full force and effect through June 30, 2024, or upon completion of the final Transportation Solutions interim report, whichever is sooner.

Furthermore, the HDC JPA requested a modification to Amendment No. 9, in a separate Board Report Item 11 on April 11, 2024, to the Professional Services Agreement for Rail Connector Implementation Study with Consultant to accommodate the additional tasks that came up during the current fiscal year 2024 to support the work for obtaining the Record of Decision and the NEPA environmental clearance processes. These additional tasks consists of Right of Way planning activities and environmental/conceptual engineering design activities to support the adjustment to the project route alignment.

I. **Scope of Work**

Paragraph V of the original Agreement, Scope of Work, is hereby amended and will supplement the existing Scope of Work with the following Scope of Work:

Complete Re-evaluation/Re-validation and Record of Decision (ROD) tasks including:

- Addressing FRA comments, provide revised version for FRA review, prepare final version for NEPA Re-evaluation and prepare a ROD for FRA final approval.
- Draft a Letter of Concurrence summarizing design changes and formal re-initiation of Section 7 consultation.
- Complete Section 106 process, including Tribe Consultation
- Prepare CEQA addendum for state funding.
- Environmental and Conceptual Engineering design activities.
- Conduct Right-of -Way planning activities.
- Complete other necessary to receive NEPA and ROD approvals.

Conclude Surface Transportation Board Petition approval process and application waiver request and other related tasks to complete this phase of project development for the HDC high speed rail project. This would close out one of the major pending items for dissolution of the HDC JPA.

## II. Compensation and Invoicing

Paragraph VI of the original Agreement set forth the compensation and invoicing for the original Scope of Work and is hereby amended to add the following:

The method of payment for the expanded Scope of Work set forth in this Amendment will be based on a total sum, subject to availability and receipt of funding, not to exceed \$977,000.

In addition, Consultant will also be authorized to subcontract for Financial, Legal, and Engineering upon approval of the HDC JPA staff. Progress payments may be made monthly in arrears based on the percentage of Work completed by consultant or subcontractors. Consultant shall submit progress reports with its invoices. Payments to Consultant shall be made within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt and approval by the HDC JPA.

Amendment 10 not to exceed \$977,000, budget breakdown is as follows:

- Transportation Solutions -- \$110,000
- Venable LLP- \$135,000
- HDR, Inc - \$181,000
- CirclePoint - \$428,000
- AECOM -\$75,000
- Epic Lands - \$48,000

## III. Other Terms of the Agreement

All other terms of the Agreement remain in full force and effect.

**See Following Page for Signature Page**

**Electronic Signatures**

This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which so executed shall be deemed to be an original, and such counterparts shall together constitute one and the same Agreement. The parties shall be entitled to sign and transmit an electronic signature of this Agreement (whether by facsimile, PDF, or other mail 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.

All other terms, conditions and covenants remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency ("HDC JPA") and Transportation Solutions ("Consultant") have each caused this Amendment to be subscribed by its respective duly authorized officers, on its behalf.

**HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JPA**

**TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Arthur V. Sohikian**  
**Executive Director**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Neil Peterson**  
**President**





**AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 13**  
**High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency**

Date: April 11, 2024

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

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

**Subject: HDC JPA EXPERT PROFESSIONAL FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICES FOR THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT**

**Recommended Action:**

- A. Find that the award of contract is not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.
- B. Award contract to InfraStrategies LLC for Professional Financial and Business Advisory Services in the amount of \$3,500,000 for a three-year base contract with two one-year options.
- C. Authorize the Executive Director and Los Angeles County Counsel, representing HDC JPA, to execute the contract.
- D. Requirements: Executive Director to execute amendments to: (a) exercise the term extension options to extend the term of the Agreement for up to two additional one-year periods; (b) add, delete, and/or change Agreement terms and conditions that are non-substantive, required by the HDC JPA Board of Directors, or necessary for compliance with applicable law; (c) approve necessary changes to scope of services; (d) supplement the initial not-to-exceed contract amount of \$3,500,000 by up to 15% contingency of the original contract amount based on workload requirements; and, (e) to suspend and/or terminate the contract for convenience.

**Background**

On December 5, 2023, Los Angeles County Public Works requested proposals for High Desert Corridor JPA Professional Financial and Business Advisory Services that were due on January 23, 2024.

The RFP was posted on the County's "Doing Business with Us" website (See Attachment A); Public Works' "Do Business with Public Works" website; Twitter; and advertisements were placed in La Opinión, Los Angeles Sentinel, and Los Angeles Daily Journal. Also, Public Works informed 902 Community Business Enterprises, 164 Social Enterprises, 150 Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises, 1,514 Local Small Business Enterprises: 1,380 Community Based

Organizations, and 2,061 firms with the Department of Economic Opportunity about this business opportunity.

The consultant services agreement has a nine-percent (9%) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise goal.

The Proposers were requested to demonstrate their good faith efforts to utilize Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. A Preproposal conference was held on December 18, 2023, and proposals were due January 23, 2024. There were 27 firms registered on the Public Works website for the RFP and three proposals were received by three consulting teams (See Attachment B).

The proposals were evaluated by an evaluation committee consisting of Metro, Los Angeles County Public Works, and City of Palmdale Public Works. The evaluation was based on criteria described in the Request for Proposals, which included price, experience, work plan, and references, utilizing the informed averaging methodology for applicable criteria.

Based on the evaluation of the three proposals, the consulting team of InfraStrategies LLC was selected without regard to race, creed, color, or gender. The firm selected represents the highest-rated, responsive, and responsible firm to provide the required services.



# HDC JPA April 11, 2024 Board Meeting Item 13 – Attachment A



(/LACoBids/)

lacounty.gov

Home (/LACoBids/)

Home

## 0 Solicitation Information

<b>Solicitation Number:</b>	BRC0000493		
<b>Title:</b>	High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Expert Professional Financial and Business Advisory Services for the High-Speed Rail Project		
<b>Department:</b>	Public Works		
<b>Bid Type:</b>	Service	<b>Bid Amount:</b>	\$3,500,000.00
<b>Commodity:</b>	FINANCIAL ADVISOR SERVICES		

## HDC JPA April 11, 2024 Board Meeting Item 13 – Attachment A

<b>Description:</b>	<p>The Los Angeles County Public Works is requesting proposals on behalf of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency (HDC JPA), from qualified firms to provide the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Expert Professional Financial and Business Advisory Services for the High-Speed Rail Project that will provide service from the City of Palmdale in North Los Angeles County to the Victor Valley communities in the County of San Bernardino.</p> <p>The High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency (the HDC JPA) objective of this solicitation is to select a firm that is the highest rated to provide capital infrastructure financial and business advisory services on an as-needed basis. The Contract has a 9% Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) utilization goal.</p> <p>The financial advisor consultant(s) will be a key consultant to HDC JPA in developing the optimal business model and financial structure for the High-Speed Rail (HSR) Project. In general, the Consultant will be expected to provide advice in respect to structuring, financial analysis, budgeting, capital programming, procurement, evaluation, negotiation and documentation, development and negotiation of the elements or components that comprise the Project pursuant to one or more acceptable project delivery options, including, but not limited to Design-Bid-Build ("DBB"), Design-Build ("DB"), Design-Build-Operate-Maintain ("DBOM"), Construction Manager at Risk ("CMR"), Public Private Partnerships ("PPPs" or "P3") and Progressive Design Build ("PDB").</p> <p>Questions are due no later than January 9, 2024, by email to the person listed below. Virtual (Optional) Preproposal meeting will be held on December 18th at 2 p.m. Link will be posted on Public Works' website at <a href="http://dpw.lacounty.gov/general/contracts/opportunities/asp">http://dpw.lacounty.gov/general/contracts/opportunities/asp</a>. To access the RFP documents and Addendums, please visit Public Works website. The following Notice to Proposers were posted: Notice to Proposers A, dated 12/19/23; Notice to Proposers B, dated 1/2/24; and Notice to Proposers C, dated 1/9/24.</p>		
	Less		
<b>Open Day:</b>	12/5/2023	<b>Closed Date:</b>	1/23/2024 5:30:00 PM
<b>Contact Name:</b>	Ms. Loydi Nguyen	<b>Contact Phone:</b>	(626) 458-2180
<b>Contact Email:</b>	Lnguyen@dpw.lacounty.gov		
<b>Notice of Intent to Award (O):</b>	<b>0</b> <a href="#">Click here to view notice intent to award list.</a>		
<b>Solicitation Award (O):</b>	<b>0</b> <a href="#">Click here to view award list.</a>		
<b>Last Changed On:</b>	1/9/2024 4:10:08 PM		
<b>Attachment File (1):</b>	<b>0</b> <a href="#">Click here to download attachment files.</a>		

HDC JPA April 11, 2024 Board Meeting Item 13 – Attachment B

PROPOSERS – PRIME AND SUBCONSULTANTS

HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY FOR EXPERT PROFESSIONAL FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICES FOR THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT (BRC0000493)

<b>1</b>	<b>Prime</b>	<b>ARUP US, INC.</b>
1	S	Sperry Capital (SBE)
2	S	Peyser Associates LLC
3	S	IDS CA (DBE)
4	S	BAE Urban Economics (DBE/SBE)
5	S	SHA Analytics LLC (DBE/WBE/SBE)
6	S	The Robert Group (DBE)
7	S	Resource Systems Group, Inc.
<b>2</b>	<b>Prime</b>	<b>ERNST &amp; YOUNG INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORS LLC</b>
1	S	SHA Analytics LLC (DBE/WBE/SBE)
2	S	Steer Davies & Gleave, Inc.
<b>3</b>	<b>Prime</b>	<b>INFRASTRATEGIES LLC</b>
1	S	Bluebird Advisors LLC (DBE)
2	S	CohnReznick LLP
3	S	GCAP Services, Inc. (DBE/MBE)
4	S	IMG Rebel Group Advisory, Inc.
5	S	IMPACTS USA (WBE)
6	S	KPMG LLP
7	S	Peyser Associates LLC
8	S	SHA Analytics LLC (DBE/WBE/SBE)
9	S	Porsche Consulting, Inc.

S- subconsultant



**AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 14**  
**High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency**

Date: April 11, 2024

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

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.

2. 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 to be awarded at the April 2024 JPA Board meeting, and another to procure Project Management and Construction Support Services likely to be released in April/May to award at the HDC JPA Board of Directors meeting in October 2024 or January 2025.

### 3. 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.

Based on the 2023 Draft Service Development Plan, 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.



## AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 14

### High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: April 11, 2024

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

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.

#### 2. 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 to be awarded at the April 2024 JPA Board meeting, and another to procure Project Management and Construction Support Services likely to be released in April/May to award at the HDC JPA Board of Directors meeting in October 2024 or January 2025.

Furthermore, as part of the environmental clearance process, we need to conduct additional tasks pertaining to right-of-way planning and environmental/conceptual engineering activities requiring \$358,000, and additional tasks related to LA County procurement staff support services requiring an additional \$47,000, for a total of \$405,000. Although there is no fiscal impact to the adopted FY24 Budget, it is requiring the HDC JPA to reallocate a total of \$405,000 from the budget line items initially funding Task 3) Program Management Support Services

(\$240,000), and Task 5) Technical/Planning & Grant Funding Application Assistance (\$165,000). This reallocation results in the budget line-item Task 1) Re-evaluate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) & Record of Decision (ROD) to increase from \$710,000 to \$1,068,000. The consultant contract to conduct this work will be modified to reflect the additional work and is described in the HDC JPA Agenda Report-Board Item 11 for consideration by the HDC JPA Board of Directors at their regular meeting on April 11, 2024. The second reallocation results in the budget line-item Task 5) Los Angeles County Treasury, Auditor-Controller, Legal Counsel, Public Works, LA Metro Reviews to increase from \$175,000 to \$222,000. See Attachment A – Re-Allocation of FY24 Budget Task Items

### 3. 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.

Based on the 2023 Draft Service Development Plan, 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.

Nealy 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.



## ATTACHMENT A

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Re-Allocated Budget for Fiscal Year 2024			
Task	Budget Description	Budget by Category	Re-Allocated Budget by Category
1	<p><b>1. Re-evaluate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) &amp; Record of Decision (ROD):</b> Complete NEPA Re-evaluation/RE-validation and Record of Decision (ROD) with Final Review by Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). Due to Federal review of submittals this task is scheduled to be completed by FRA in in FY24. Tasks for FY24 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Addressing FRA comments, provide revised version for FRA final review, Prepare final version for NEPA Re-evaluation and prepare a ROD for FRA final approval.</li> <li>-Draft a Letter of Concurrence and re-initiate ROD Section 7 consult. Complete Section 106 process, Tribe Consultation. Prepare CEQA addendum for state funding. Conclude Surface Transportation Board (STB) Petition Approval process.</li> <li>2. Conclude Surface Transportation Board (STB) Petition Approval process.</li> <li>3. Update Service Development Plan</li> <li>4. Conduct right-of-way planning activities and environmental/conceptual engineering activities</li> </ul>	\$710,000	\$1,068,000
2	<p><b>HDC JPA Management:</b> Oversee agency management, technical analysis and grant applications, budgetary activities, equity focused planning, administration, stakeholder engagement and communications. For FY23-24, HDC management functions will need to be augmented to meet the increased project needs requiring the services of a senior level project management/planning and communications staff and an administrative support staff. As the project progresses beyond the environmental phase and it conducts preliminary engineering, as well as approach final design, each year the agency will require broader and more extensive staffing such as continued executive level project/engineering management, executive level planning, and executive level communications staff to support the increasing complexity, expertise, and greater level of effort this project will require to get to final design and eventual construction phases of this project.</p>	\$430,000	\$430,000
3	<p><b>Project Management Support Services (PMSS).</b> Procure the professional services of a program management support services (PMSS) firm to support HDC JPA with overseeing the work related to Preliminary Engineering (PE) including statement of work, contract development, contract administration support, federal and state grant agreement compliance, procurement support services, set and monitor program control and project scheduling control functions, cost estimating, configuration management, project management, and other support services. For FY24, the PMSS contractor will be performing work at a level of effort that will be commensurate with transitioning from the environmental phase into the PE phase of the project which will consist of developing the Preliminary Engineering (PE) statement of work and contract development.</p>	\$240,000	Re-allocate \$240,000 to Task 1

## ATTACHMENT A

4	<b>Financial Advisory (FA) Services</b> - Procure ongoing financial planning, modeling, and analysis will be required to support project development into the preliminary engineering phase that includes to further develop and refine the funding plan, analyze options for local funding contributions toward the project, assess alternative delivery options and the viability of public-private partnerships through a Value for Money analysis, provide updated ridership forecasting as needed, perform additional financial modeling and diligence on financing options, identify credit enhancement strategies, and support discussions with potential market participants.	\$135,000	\$135,000
5	<b>Technical/Planning &amp; Grant Funding Application Assistance:</b> Provide technical/planning assistance to support the agency planning functions and provide grant application assistance for state and federal grant funding under the recent Biden Infrastructure Bill and other federal and state funding categories such as the Notifications of Funding Opportunity issued by FRA or USDOT.	\$165,000	Re-allocate \$118,00 to Task 1 and \$47,000 to Task 6
6	<b>Los Angeles County Treasury, Auditor-Controller, Legal Counsel, Public Works, LA Metro Reviews</b> - Monthly Support for AP/AR functions, Budget Oversight, Board Meetings staffing, Agency Oversight & Compliance Items, Procurement Oversight/RFP	\$175,000	\$222,000
7	<b>Audit Services: County of Los Angeles Audit Services</b>	\$20,000	\$20,000
8	<b>LA Metro Funding Agreement Audit Services</b>	\$20,000	\$20,000
9	<b>Multi-Media Promotion, Materials &amp; Advertising</b>	\$30,000	\$30,000
10	<b>IT Support, GIS, Software &amp; Website Mgmt.</b>	\$22,500	\$22,500
	<b>Total Re-Allocated FY24 Budget</b>	<b>\$ 1,947,500</b>	<b>\$1,947,500</b>