



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

MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, April 17, 2025 – 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.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86807752598?pwd=bY8W7aQhrbjBS5V7g09hclvL1NmaKi.1>

Meeting ID: 868 0775 2598 Passcode: 167994

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

Meeting ID: 868 0775 2598 Passcode: 167994

TELECONFERENCE AVAILABLE AT THESE ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS

Kathryn Barger County of Los Angeles Hall of Administration 500 W. Temple Street Conference Room 864 Los Angeles, CA 90012 and Remote Location	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 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, 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, 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. 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 9, 2025, HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom webinar format.

HDC JPA BOARD REGULAR CALENDAR

6. CALIFORNIA HIGH SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY UPDATE - *Ian Choudri, CEO, CHSRA*

Recommended Action: *Receive and File*

7. HDC JPA PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 BUDGET

Recommended Action:

A. Approve High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget of \$11,937,350. Attachment A – HDC JPA Proposed FY25-26 Budget and HDC JPA FY24-25 Approved Budget.

B. Authorize the Chair, 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.

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

Recommended Action:

A. Approve the AVS Consulting, Inc. Contract Extension, including subcontractors, for a not-to-exceed annual amount of \$824,510 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, 2025, to June 30, 2026, pending funding of the FY2025-2026 adopted budget.

B. Authorize the Chair, Executive Director, and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary contracts.

9. HDC JPA CONTRACT AMENDMENT 11 WITH TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS

Recommended Action:

Approve the Transportation Solutions Contract Amendment 11, including subcontractors, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$2,585,000 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, 2025, to June 30, 2026, pending funding in the FY2025-2026 adopted budget.

10. HDC JPA ENGINEERING DESIGN AND RELATED 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 a contract to HDR, Inc. for Engineering, Design, and Related Advisory Services for the High-Speed Rail Project for a not-to-exceed contract amount of \$42,000,000, plus a 25% contingency of the contractual amount to be exercised at the discretion of the HDC JPA. The contractual agreement will be for a five-year term with three additional two-year options to be exercised at the discretion of the HDC JPA for a potential total performance period of 11 years.
- C. Authorize the Executive Director and Los Angeles County Counsel, representing HDC JPA, to execute the contract.
- D. Authorize the Executive Director to execute task orders to conduct the necessary engineering related activities as needed and execute amendments to: (a) exercise the term extension options to extend the term of the Agreement for up to three additional two-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 the scope of services of the contract as needed; (d) supplement the initial not-to-exceed contract amount with a 25% contingency of \$10,500,000, based on workload requirements; and, (e) to suspend and/or terminate the contract for convenience.

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

Recommended Action: *Receive and file report.*

12. HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

13. ADJOURNMENT. Next HDC JPA Board of Directors Meeting is July 10, 2025, 2 pm



AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 5

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: April 17, 2025

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 October 10, 2024, HDC JPA Board Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom format.

1. **January 17, 2025, HDC JPA CALL TO ORDER – Vice Chair Becerra calls virtual Board meeting to order at 2:01pm**
2. **ROLL CALL – Quorum Present, 4 voting members as follows:**

HDC JPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS – present/voting members

Elizabeth Becerra, Mayor, City of Victorville

Lauren Hughes-Leslie, Council Member, City of Lancaster

Eric Ohlsen, City of Palmdale

Ara Najarian, Director, 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 Vice Chair Becerra

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – No Public Comment

5. HDC JPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES/RECAP OF PROCEEDINGS

Recommended Action: *Approve October 10, 2024, 2024, HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom format.*

Approved Item 5 by Motion by Director Najarian, second by Vice Chair Becerra

EB	LHL	EO	AN		
Y	Y	Y	Y		

HDC JPA BOARD REGULAR CALENDAR

6. **BRIGHTLINE WEST HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT UPDATE** — Ben Porritt, SVP Corporate Affairs, Brightline West
Recommended Action: *Receive and file report.*

7. **CA HIGH SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY PROJECT UPDATE** — LaDonna DiCamillo, Southern California Regional Director, CA High Speed Rail Authority
Recommended Action: *Receive and file report.*

8. **HDC JPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT** – *HDC JPA Executive Director*
Recommended Action: *Receive and file report.*

9. **HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** **No Items**

10. **ADJOURNMENT 2:59m.** Next HDC JPA Board Meeting is April 17, 2025, 2 pm/virtual



CALIFORNIA
High-Speed Rail Authority

California High-Speed Rail Authority Update

Ian Choudri

CEO

April 17, 2025

Where We Are Today

2025 Progress

- Today:

- 171 miles under construction or under advance design in the Central Valley
- 463 Miles from downtown San Francisco to downtown Los Angeles is environmentally cleared
- One remaining segment to be environmentally cleared in 2025
- Station design for four Central Valley stations is underway



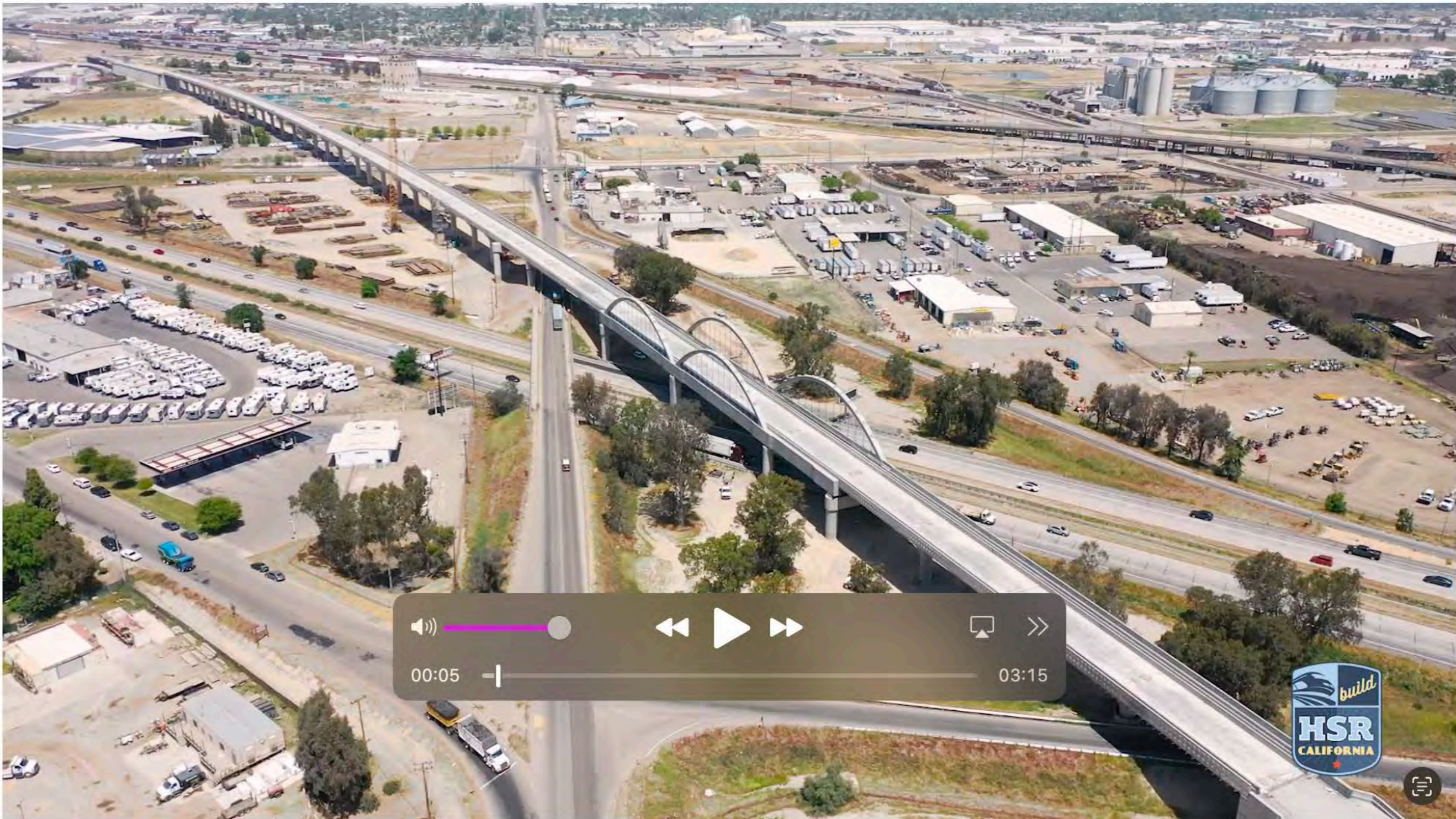
New Leadership, New Focus

Under new leadership – tighter focus on delivery:

- » Analyze every aspect of this project to deliver system efficiently and effectively
- » Engage with industry to accelerate delivery and refine our approach
- » Shift how we deliver the system by:
 - Building smarter, faster, more economically
 - Prevent costly delays
 - Structuring into a project delivery team
- » Work with legislature to provide more jurisdictional authority to CAHSRA
- » Find innovative ways to stabilize funding/financing
- » Advance development of the Southwest High-Speed Rail Network



Central Valley Update



Southern California

Complete Phase 1

164 Miles

- Status

- » Palmdale – Burbank cleared June 2024
- » Continuing Environmental clearance Los Angeles - Anaheim
- » Bookend projects advancing
 - Rosecrans/Marquardt Grade Separation (anticipated completion in 2025)
 - LinkUS Project



Railhead Project

- Kicked off in January 2025 and represents the first steps in the track and systems construction process
- Located in CP4, just north of Shafter
- The Railhead will allow for:
 - Construction of temporary freight tracks
 - Delivery of track laying machines, track, ties, and poles
 - Materials can be managed, stored and staged for construction
 - Allows our teams to start laying the first high-speed rail tracks next year



Southwest Regional High-Speed Rail Network

- » The Authority, High-Desert Corridor JPA and Brightline West projects will, together, develop a Southwest Regional High-Speed Rail Network.
 - The Authority's high-speed system also interconnects with other regional systems including Caltrain in the Bay Area, the San Joaquin system (ACE), and Metrolink in the south.
- » Once fully built and interconnected, the three systems will pave the way for Californians to travel from Northern California through the Central Valley to Southern California and Las Vegas.
- » 2024 California State Rail Plan envisions future connections in Arizona and beyond.



Southwest High-Speed Rail Network

California High-Speed Rail Authority and High Desert Corridor Today:

- » The Authority and HDC are collaborating on protocols and standards for interoperability between systems.
- » The Authority has been assigned the FRA's responsibilities as lead agency under NEPA for projects that directly connect to stations on the high-speed rail system, accelerating project delivery:
 - High Desert Corridor
 - Link-US
 - LOSSAN Corridor



Southwest High-Speed Rail Network

How the California High-Speed Rail Authority envisions supporting High Desert Corridor:

- » Direct purchasing of long-lead commoditized material for substantial cost savings for HDC.
- » The Authority can support with construction resources to build tracks and related civil facilities.
- » The Authority can provide material specification and design criteria for infrastructure development for HDC.
- » The Authority believes sharing resources and expertise with HDC will significantly improve HDC cost and schedule.



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Visit the California High Speed Rail Authority website at [hsr.ca.gov](https://www.hsr.ca.gov)
and Build HSR California at [BuildHSR.com](https://www.BuildHSR.com)



AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 7

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: April 17, 2025

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 2025-2026 BUDGET**

Recommended Action:

A. Approve High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget of \$11,937,350. Attachment A – HDC JPA Proposed FY25-26 Budget and HDC JPA FY24-25 Approved Budget.

B. Authorize the Chair, 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 2025-2026 Budget/Background:

The proposed FY26 budget reflects the planning responsibilities that HDC JPA seeks to complete NEPA/ROD and SDP while advancing with design engineering and ROW planning activities

The proposed HDC JPA FY26 budget is a “planning-first” budget that aims to facilitate two key project planning milestones:

1. Obtaining NEPA approvals and receiving a Record of Decision
 2. Submission of the final Service Development and Financial Plan to FRA
- California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) staff support for NEPA Reevaluation Work: Provide funding for California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) staff support to conduct the NEPA Reevaluation work that will be delegated by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to the CHSRA to support HDC JPA's environmental clearance that is needed to obtain a Record of Decision. The budgeted amount of \$1,940,000 for FY26 is based on workplan that the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) provided.
 - 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, 2025 to June 30, 2026 for a not to exceed cost of \$ 2,585,000.

- Service Development Plan (SDP) is budgeted at \$2,310,000 for FY26. Metro will continue as lead on the HDC Service Development Plan (SDP) to be submitted to FRA for final consideration in FY26. 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.
- 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, 2025 to June 30, 2026 for a not to exceed amount of \$824,510.
- 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 FY26, 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.
- Engineering Design and Related Advisory Services (EDS): The Engineering, Design, and related services (EDS) firm to support HDC JPA Executive Management with overseeing the work related to the engineering and design services that will be necessary for FY26 in the amount of \$2,480,000. This work consist of the following tasks: 1) oversight of the engineering work to be conducted for the Service Development Plan; 2) coordinate with the conceptual engineering work to be conducted by the Environmental Clearance Team; 3) engineering oversight of the work to be conducted to integrate the HDC JPA High Speed Rail Project into the Palmdale Station with California High Speed Rail Authority and the Victor Valley Station with the Brightline West organization; 4) coordinate with the California High Speed Rail Authority, Federal Railroad Administration and other State Agencies; 5) Coordinate with ROW Acquisition Planning work effort; 6) support grant applications and grant agreement compliance; 7) provide cost scheduling, control, and estimating functions, as well as other related support services. Funding for this task will be partially funded by the \$16.5 million TIRCP grant funding allocated to HDC JPA.

- The County of Los Angeles will be providing auditing, controller, procurement support and legal counsel services for an estimated amount of \$270,000 from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
- 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.

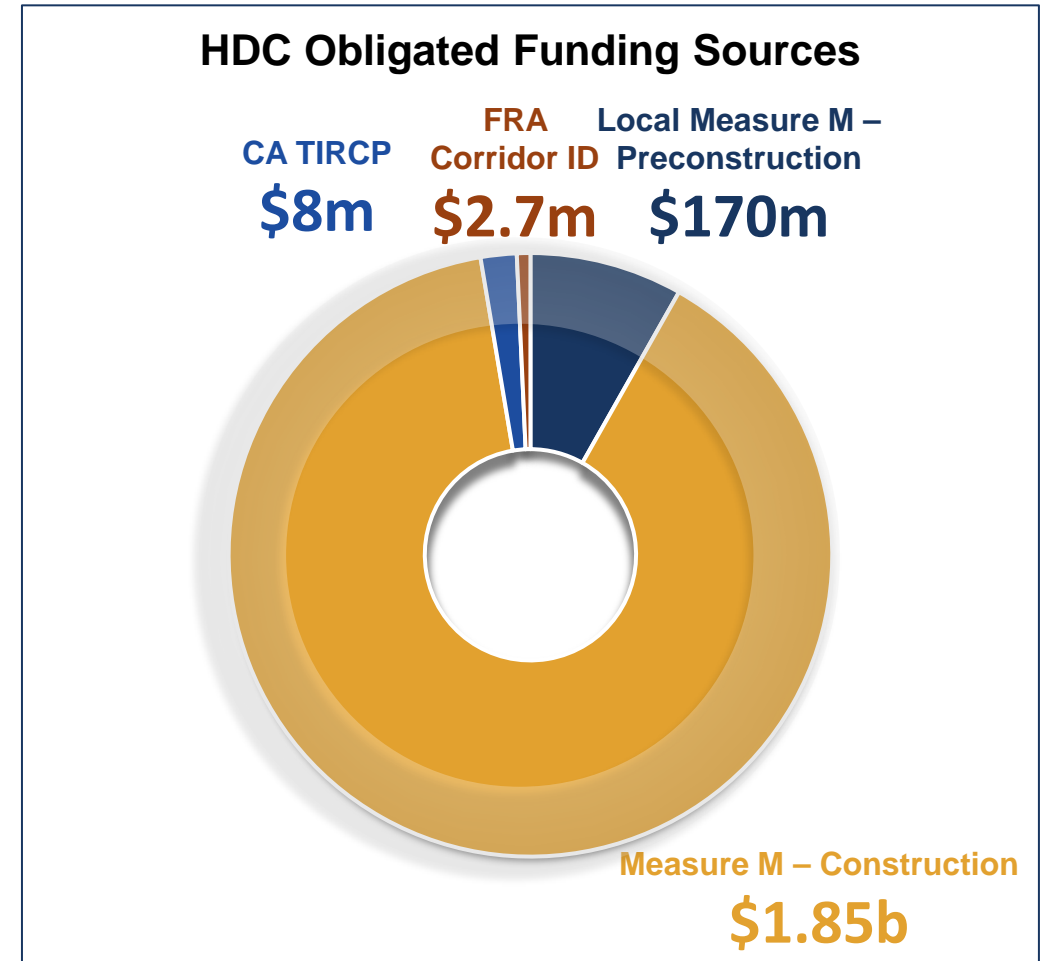


**HIGH DESERT
CORRIDOR**
JOINT POWERS AGENCY

HDC JPA April 17, 2025 Board Agenda Item 7 Proposed FY26 Budget Overview

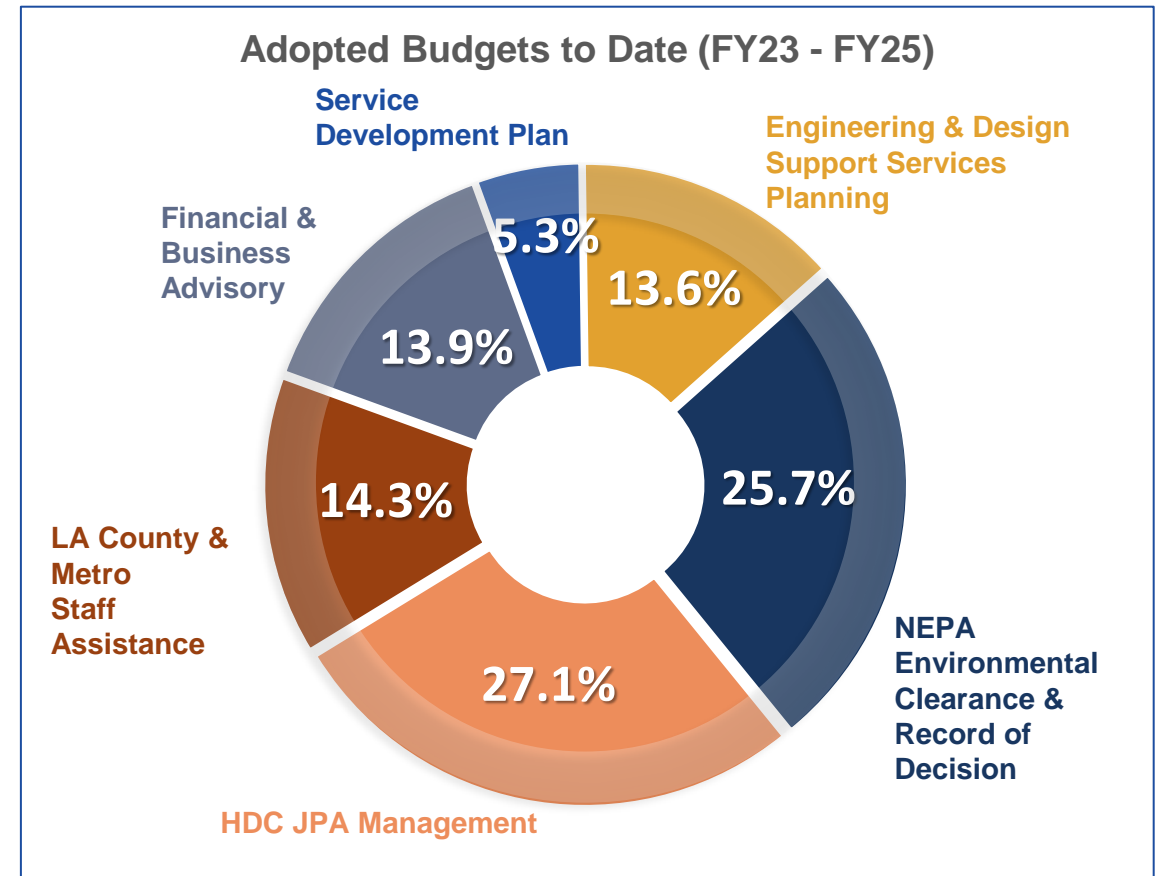
HDC JPA has secured over \$2B in local, state and federal support to fund the High-Speed Rail Project

- **Local** - Measure M funds committed by Metro are divided into two allocations per the Measure M Expenditure Plan:
 - \$170M in early funds available for predevelopment activities: \$146 million remaining (May 2024)
 - Funds available for capital construction: \$1.85 billion (available in FY2063 – 2067)
- **State** - In 2023, CalSTA awarded \$8 million TIRCP funds for reimbursed predevelopment-related design engineering expenditures.
- **Federal** - In 2023, HDC JPA awarded grant funding under the FRA Corridor ID Program for reimbursed expenditures related to the Service and Financial Development Plan (SDP):
 - \$500k for Corridor ID Step 1 (Obligated)
 - \$2.2 million for Corridor ID Step 2 (Pending FRA final approval)
- HDC JPA continues to work to leverage existing funds to advance the project to construction



HDC JPA Adopted Budget Allocations to Date (FY23 – FY25)

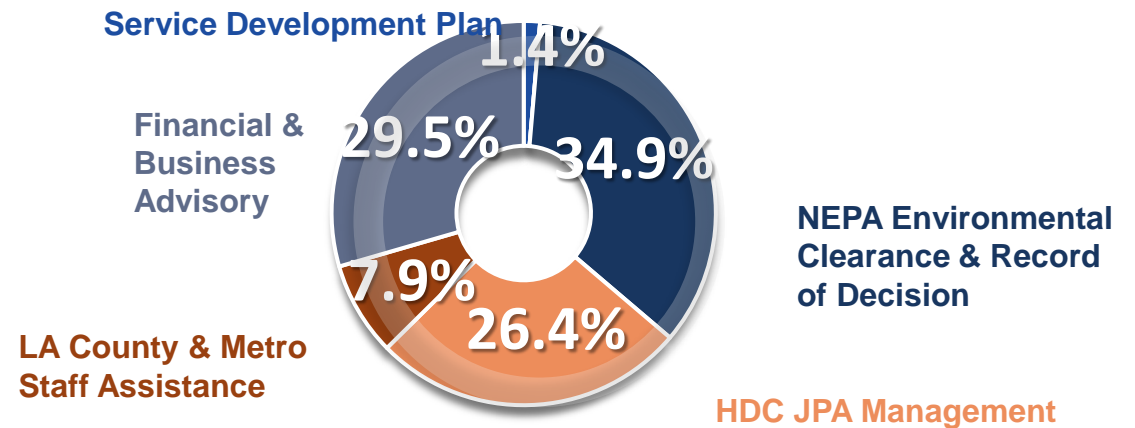
- In recent years, the HDC JPA adopted fiscal year budgets have reflected the JPA's planning priorities to achieve NEPA approvals/ROD, continue ROW planning and conceptual advanced planning design engineering work, and completion of the Service & Financial Development Plan
- Key activities during this period included:
 - Coordination with the FRA and CHSRA to advance the NEPA environmental clearance toward a Record of Decision (ROD)
 - Continued coordination/integration with Brightline West at the Victor Valley Station and California High Speed Rail Authority at the Palmdale Station
 - Leveraged Local Measure M funds by securing Federal (Corridor ID) and CA State (TIRCP) grant funds
 - Completed labor agreements with CA Trades Councils for construction and US Rail Labor Coalition for O&M
 - Procured Financial and Business Advisory Consultant Team
 - Developed a Sources and Uses Financial Budget and Model tool
 - Completed the solicitation process and identified a vendor to provide Engineering and Design Support Services (EDS)



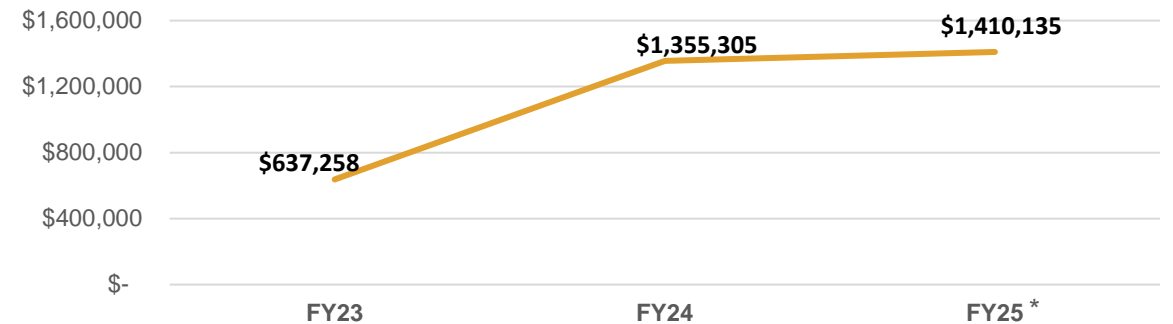
HDC JPA Budget Expenditures to Date (FY23 – FY25)

- In recent years, the HDC JPA adopted fiscal year budgets have reflected the JPA’s planning priorities to achieve NEPA approvals/ROD, continue ROW planning, continue conceptual advanced planning design engineering work, and completion of the Service & Financial Development Plan.
- Key activities during this period included:
 - Coordination with the FRA and CHSRA to advance the NEPA environmental clearance toward a Record of Decision (ROD)
 - Continued coordination/integration with Brightline West at the Victor Valley Station and California High Speed Rail Authority at the Palmdale Station. Signed seamless integration MOU
 - Leveraged Local Measure M funds by securing Federal (Corridor ID) and CA State (TIRCP) grant funds
 - Completed labor agreements with CA Trades Councils for construction and US Rail Labor Coalition for O&M
 - Procured Financial and Business Advisory Consultant Team
 - Developed a Sources and Uses Financial Budget and Model tool
 - Completed the solicitation process and identified a vendor to provide Engineering and Design Support Services (EDS)

Actual Budget Expenditures to Date (FY23 – FY25*)



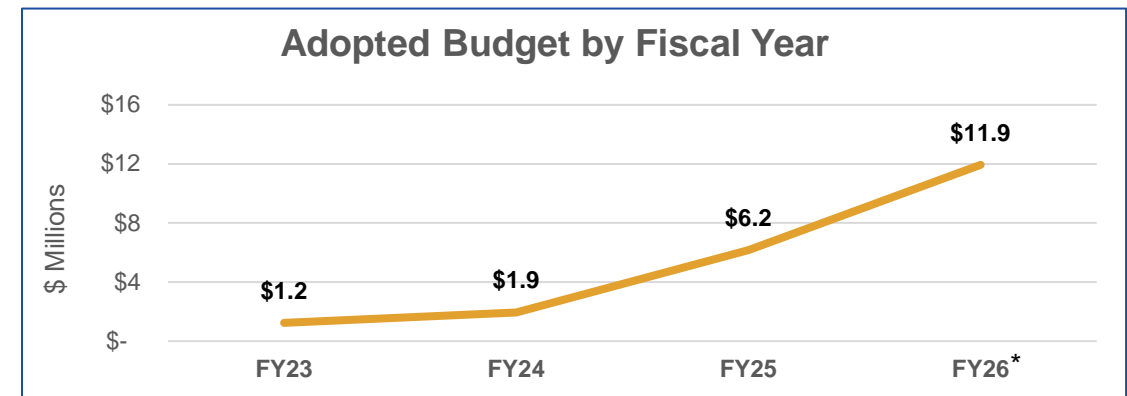
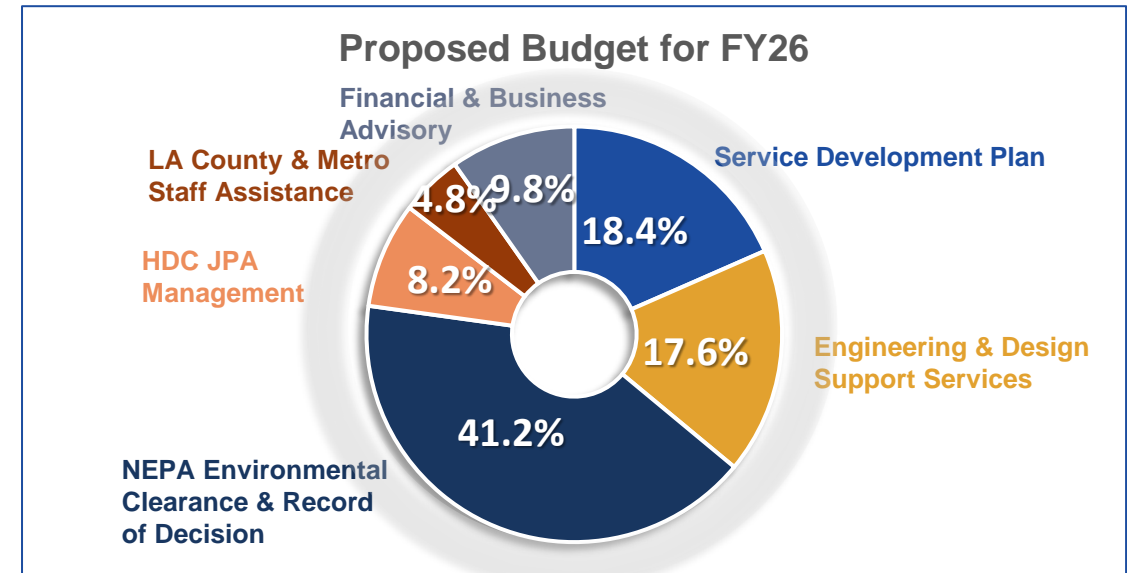
HDC Actual Expenditures (FY23 – FY25)



* Includes current FY25 expenditures through February 28, 2025

The Proposed HDC “Planning First” JPA FY26 Budget prioritizes NEPA clearance and SDP completion

- The proposed FY26 budget reflects the planning responsibilities that HDC JPA seeks to complete NEPA/ROD and SDP while advancing with design engineering and ROW planning activities
- The proposed HDC JPA FY26 budget is a “planning-first” budget that aims to facilitate two key project planning milestones:
 - Obtaining an FRA NEPA Record of Decision
 - Submission of the final Service Development and Financial Plan to FRA
- The proposed FY26 budget also includes:
 - Onboarding of the Engineering and Design Support Services consultant
 - Commencement of advanced conceptual planning and engineering/design work under the EDS contract



DRAFT

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency
 Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 with FY25 Adopted Budget Comparison

Item	HDC JPA Budget Description	Adopted FY25 Amount	Proposed FY26 Amount
1	<p>California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) staff support for NEPA Reevaluation Work: Provide funding for California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) staff support to conduct the NEPA Reevaluation work that will be delegated by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to the CHSRA to support HDC JPA's environmental clearance that is needed to obtain a Record of Decision. Budgeted amount for FY26 is based on workplan that California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) provided, which is budgeted for fiscal year 2026.</p>	\$0	\$1,940,000
2	<p>Re-evaluate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) & Record of Decision (ROD): Complete the NEPA Re-evaluation/Re-validation and Record of Decision (ROD) with Final Review by the FRA NEPA designation entity California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA). Tasks for FY26 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Addressing comments, provide revised version for CHSR final review. Prepare final version for NEPA Re-evaluation and prepare a ROD for CHSRA final approval. -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. <p>2. Conclude Surface Transportation Board (STB) Petition Approval process. Contractors: Transportation Solutions: \$248,000 Epic Land Solutions, Inc.: \$555,000 Circlepoint: \$1,368,000 Venable LLP: \$294,000 Arrellano Associates \$120,000. Other sub contractors as needed based on NEPA process.</p>	\$977,350	\$2,585,000
3	<p>Service Development Plan (SDP) Update: Metro will continue as lead on the HDC Service Development Plan (SDP) that will be submitted to FRA for their consideration in FY26. Based on FRA direction, 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. This budgeted amount may be reimbursed to the HDC JPA through the Federal Railroad Administration Corridor Identification Grant Stage 2 at 90% federal, 10% Measure M.</p>	\$500,000	\$2,310,000

DRAFT

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 with FY25 Adopted Budget Comparison

4	<p>HDC JPA Management: Oversee agency management including technical analysis, grant applications, budgetary activities, equity focused planning, administration, engineering, right-of-way planning, stakeholder engagement and communications. For FY26, 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 (ROW) 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. Contractors: AVS Consulting, Inc.: \$344,500 Cal Strategic Management: \$290,000 ERCL Consulting LLC: \$121,110 HDC As-Needed Staff Support: \$68,900</p>	\$1,188,800	\$824,510
5	<p>Financial Advisory Services: Conduct ongoing financial planning & analysis, modeling, and structural management analysis to support project development into the fiscal year 2026 that includes identifying, developing, and refining the project funding plan, analyze options for local, state, and federal funding contributions toward the project, prepare local, state, federal grant applications and provide grants management support, coordinate with station integration planning work, provide updated ridership forecasting as needed, identify credit enhancement strategies, Coordinate with the Engineering Design Services firm that will be onboarded. Maintain and update on an ongoing basis of the HDC Financial Dashboard.</p>	\$1,165,000	\$1,165,000

DRAFT

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 with FY25 Adopted Budget Comparison

6	<p>Program Management Support and Construction Management Support Services (PMC): 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 & relocation plans and implementation, cost scheduling & 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	\$0
7	<p>Engineering Design and Related Advisory Services (EDS): The Engineering, Design, and related services (EDS) firm to support HDC JPA Executive Management with overseeing the work related to the engineering and design services that will be necessary for FY26. This work includes conducting advanced conceptual planning and engineering work that includes the following tasks: 1) oversight of the engineering work to be conducted for the Service Development Plan; 2) coordinate with the conceptual engineering work to be conducted by the Environmental Clearance Team; 3) engineering oversight of the work to be conducted to integrate the HDC JPA High Speed Rail Project into the Palmdale Station with California High Speed Rail Authority and the Victor Valley Station with the Brightline West organization; 4) coordinate with the California High Speed Rail Authority, Federal Railroad Administration and other State Agencies; 5) Coordinate with ROW Acquisition Planning work effort; 6) support grant applications and grant agreement compliance; 7) provide cost scheduling, control, and estimating functions, as well as other related support services. Funding for this task will be partially funded by the \$16.5 million TIRCP grant funding allocated to HDC JPA.</p>	\$0	\$2,480,000

DRAFT

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 with FY25 Adopted Budget Comparison

8	<p>County of Los Angeles Treasury, Auditor-Controller, Legal Counsel, Public Works Staff Support: 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.</p> <p>Public Works Procurement/Vendor Services: \$120,000 Procurement support services to advise, monitor, and provide oversight for preparing request for proposals, contract development and execution, memoranda of understanding (MOU), state and federal procurement compliance processes. These support services will include procuring contracts in the areas of professional services contracts and architectural and engineering contracts. For FY26, the support includes supporting the procurement processes that may come up during the fiscal year.</p> <p>Controller: \$90,000 - Monthly Support for Controller related functions, budget oversight, grants reporting, invoice payments, financial reporting, interagency funds transfers, monthly reconciliation reports, and other related financial reports.</p> <p>Legal Counsel: \$60,000 - Monthly Support for legal counsel to review agency contracts, memorandum of understanding (MOU), funding agreements, Board of Director reports, Agency Regulatory Compliance, Grant Applications & Compliance, Procurement Documents: Request for Proposals process, contractual agreements, contract execution, and other related services.</p>	\$665,000	\$270,000
9	<p>LA Metro Staff Support: Provide Metro staff support from several departments including Regional Rail Program, Cost Estimating, Countywide Planning support and assistance on an as-needed basis to support HDC JPA.</p>	\$350,000	\$150,000
10	<p>Stakeholder and Public Engagement and Planning Assistance: Provide communications, community engagement, and other related planning assistance to support the Agency communications and planning functions.</p>	\$185,000	\$90,000
11	<p>Audit Services: County of Los Angeles Audit Services</p>	\$30,000	\$30,000
12	<p>LA Metro Funding Agreement Audit Services</p>	\$25,350	\$25,340
13	<p>Multi-Media Promotion, Materials & Advertising. US HSR Association yearly membership</p>	\$30,000	\$45,000
14	<p>IT Support, Software & Website Mgmt.</p>	\$22,500	\$22,500
15	<p>Total Adopted FY25 Budget & Proposed FY26 Budget</p>	\$6,174,000	\$11,937,350
16	<p>Less: Reserve Fund-Cash on Hand as of March 31, 2024</p>	\$1,800,000	\$0
17	<p>Measure M Funds Requested for FY25 Budget</p>	\$4,374,000	\$11,937,350



AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 8
High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: April 17, 2025

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:

- A. Approve the AVS Consulting, Inc. Contract Extension, including subcontractors, for a not-to-exceed annual amount of \$824,510 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, 2025, to June 30, 2026, pending funding of the FY2025-2026 adopted budget.
- B. Authorize the Chair, Executive Director, and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary contracts.

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 2024, the HDC Board extended the contract performance period with no hourly rate increase from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, for a total contract value of \$1,188,800.

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 FY26, HDC JPA management functions will be augmented to meet the increased project needs requiring the services of a senior level project management/planning, engineering design, right-of-way planning support, and administrative support staff.

AVS Consulting, Inc. will need to add sub-contracted staff with no change to the hourly rate structure for the period of July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, for a not to exceed amount of \$824,510.

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, July 1, 2023 and July 1, 2024.

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, 2025, to June 30, 2026, for a not-to-exceed annual amount of \$824,510. 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 9
High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: April 17, 2025

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:

- A. Approve the Transportation Solutions Contract Amendment 11, including subcontractors, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$2,585,000 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, 2025, to June 30, 2026, pending funding in the FY2025-2026 adopted budget.
- B. Authorize the Executive Director and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary contracts

Background:

This Amendment No. 11 ("Amendment") to the Professional Services Agreement for Rail Connector Implementation Study, effective as of July 1, 2025, 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 July 1, 2024, the HDC JPA entered Amendment No. 10 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. 11 to the Agreement provides 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, 2026, or upon completion of the final Transportation Solutions interim report, whichever is sooner.

These additional tasks consist 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 \$2,585,000.

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 \$2,585,000, budget breakdown is as follows:

Contractors:

- Transportation Solutions: \$248,000
- Epic Land Solutions, Inc.: \$555,000
- Circlepoint: \$1,368,000
- Venable LLP: \$294,000
- Arrellano Associates \$120,000.
- Other sub contractors as needed based on NEPA process.

III. Other Terms of the Agreement

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

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 10
High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: April 17, 2025

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

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

Subject: HDC JPA ENGINEERING DESIGN AND RELATED 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 a contract to HDR, Inc. for Engineering, Design, and Related Advisory Services for the High-Speed Rail Project for a not-to-exceed contract amount of \$42,000,000, plus a 25% contingency of the contractual amount to be exercised at the discretion of the HDC JPA. The contractual agreement will be for a five-year term with three additional two-year options to be exercised at the discretion of the HDC JPA for a potential total performance period of 11 years.
- C.** Authorize the Executive Director and Los Angeles County Counsel, representing HDC JPA, to execute the contract.
- D.** Authorize the Executive Director to execute task orders to conduct the necessary engineering related activities as needed and execute amendments to: (a) exercise the term extension options to extend the term of the Agreement for up to three additional two-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 the scope of services of the contract as needed; (d) supplement the initial not-to-exceed contract amount with a 25% contingency of \$10,500,000, based on workload requirements; and, (e) to suspend and/or terminate the contract for convenience.

Background

On October 31, 2024, the County of Los Angeles Public Works Procurement Department requested proposals for the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Engineering, Design, and Related Advisory Services for the High-Speed Rail Project.

The Request For Proposals (RFP) was advertised on the County's "Doing Business with Us" website (See Attachment A); Public Works' "Do Business with Public Works" website; Twitter; and published in La Opinión, Los Angeles Sentinel, and Los Angeles Daily Journal. Also, Public

Works advertised this RFP in a weekly e-mail newsletter with over 32,370 subscribers, informed 1,144 Community Business Enterprises, 154 Social Enterprises, 176 Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises, 1,674 Local Small Business Enterprises: 1,007 Community Based Organizations, and 955 firms with the Department of Economic Opportunity about this business opportunity.

The consultant services contract agreement has a twenty-three percent (23%) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise goal. The Proposers were requested to demonstrate their good faith efforts to utilize Disadvantaged Business Enterprises on their team and HDR Engineering, Inc., proposed Disadvantaged Business participation is on file.

A Preproposal conference was held on November 18, 2024. Fifty (50) firms registered on the County of Los Angeles Public Works website for the RFP and four proposals were received on December 17, 2024 (See Attachment B).

The proposals were evaluated by an evaluation committee consisting of staff members from Metro Program Management, Metro Countywide Planning Departments, and from the County of Los Angeles County Public Works, Design Division. The evaluation was based on comprehensive criteria described in the Request for Proposals, which included experience, key personnel, work plan approach, proposer's quality assurance and quality control program, and references, utilizing the informed averaging methodology for applicable criteria. Based on the evaluation of the proposals, HDR Engineering, Inc., was selected without regard to race, creed, color, or gender and represents the best-qualified firm to provide the requested services.



(/LACoBids/)

lacounty.gov

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⊕ Solicitation Detail

Solicitation Number:	BRC0000516		
Title:	High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Engineering, Design, and Related Advisory Services for the High-Speed Rail Project		
Department:	Public Works		
Bid Type:	Service	Bid Amount:	\$42,000,000.00
Commodity:	CONSULTING SERVICES - ENGINEERING		



Description:

lacounty.gov

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 for Engineering, Design, and Related Advisory Support 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.

Loydi Nguyen ▾

A pre-proposal virtual conference to answer questions concerning the project will be held on Monday, November 18, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., via Microsoft Teams. Subconsultants are not required to attend. Those who wish to attend must click the link that will be posted on the Public Works website for BRC0000516 to join. This link will be posted on November 18th no later than 1:00 p.m.

The HDC JPA is a separate entity from the County of Los Angeles. Public Works is helping with the procurement process for the HDC JPA. You are now required to register an account on Public Works "Do Business With Public Works" website in order to view any current solicitation: <https://dpw.lacounty.gov/contracts/opportunities.aspx>. Registration is only needed one time. Further you should also register as a plan holder for this specific RFP BRC0000516. Only those firms registered for this RFP through the Public Works website will receive automatic notification when any update to this RFP is made. Plan holder information is viewable to other registered plan holders. The County does not have an obligation to notify any proposers other than through the Public Works website's automatic notification system.

The following Addendums are posted:

- Notice to Proposers A, dated November 4, 2024.
- Notice to Proposers B, dated November 6, 2024.
- Notice to Proposers C, dated November 21, 2024
- Notice to Proposers D, dated December 4, 2024

Less


Open Day:

10/31/2024

Close Date:

12/17/2024 5:30:00 PM



Contact Name:	Loydi Nguyen	Contact Phone:	(626) 458-2180
Contact Email:	Lnguyen@pw.lacounty.gov (/LACoBids/)		
Last Changed On:	12/4/2024 8:10:37 PM		
Attachment File (5) :	 Click here to download attachment files.		

Loydi Nguyen ▾



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Attachment B

Proposer HDR Engineering, Inc. and Sub-Contractors

	Prime	HDR Engineering, Inc.
1	Sub	Amheart Solutions (SBE, DBE, DVBE)
2	Sub	Antelope Valley Engineering
3	Sub	Arellano Associates (SBE, MBE,WBE,DBE)
4	Sub	Circlepoint (LSBE)
5	Sub	DeutscheBahn
6	Sub	Geo-Advantec
7	Sub	Guida Surveying, Inc. (SBE)
8	Sub	ICF
9	Sub	IDC Consulting Engineers, Inc. (SBE, DBE)
10	Sub	Intueor Consulting Inc. (DBE)
11	Sub	Parsons
12	Sub	PBS Engineers, Inc. (LSBE, MBE, DBE)
13	Sub	River Focus, Inc. (SBE, MBE, DBE)
14	Sub	Rail Surveyors and Engineers, Inc. dba RSE Corporation (SBE, DBE)
15	Sub	Sarah L. Catz
16	Sub	Saylor Consulting Group, Inc. (SBE, DBE)
17	Sub	Sener Engineering and Systems, Inc.
18	Sub	Steer Group
19	Sub	STV Incorporated
20	Sub	Suenram & Associates, Inc. (LSBE, WBE, DBE)
21	Sub	T&T Public Relations, Inc. (LSBE, DBE)
22	Sub	TRES Solutions (SBE)
23	Sub	TYPSA (dba Aztec)
24	Sub	V&A Inc. (SBE, DBE)
25	Sub	Venable LLP
26	Sub	VN Tunnel and Underground, Inc. (SBE, DBE)
27	Sub	Zephyr UAS, Inc., dba Zephyr Rail (SBE, MBE, DBE)



AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 11

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: April 17, 2025

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. HDC JPA FY25 Work Program Implementation

On May 23, 2024, the Metro Board of Directors unanimously approved the HDC JPA FY25 Budget Work Program of \$6,174,000 from Measure M funds. HDC staff has been moving forward on each of the FY25 Work Plan activities including: 1) the creation of a financial plan for the Intercity High Speed Rail Project (HDC HSR) with a financial dashboard, 2) continue to work on the Federal Railroad Administration Corridor Identification and Development Program (FRA CID) Service Development and Funding Plan with Metro, 3) release of the Engineering, Design and Related Services procurement, and 4) be prepared to continue work on the HDC HSR environmental clearance approvals.

The Financial & Business Advisory Support Team is currently working with HDC JPA Executive Management on various tasks including the HDC JPA Financial Dashboard which was used in the FY276 Budget development. Their Update is included as part of Attachment A.

2. 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 held a workshop in October 2023 for interested parties and in May 2024 asked the HDC JPA to focus on more planning and coordination with the CA High Speed Rail Project and the Brightline West Project before advancing further in the NEPA process.

In October 2024, the HDC JPA approached the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) to discuss the possibility that the CHSRA assume the role of NEPA Lead Agency through their NEPA delegation Authority agreement with the FRA.

In February 2025, the HDC JPA submitted a Draft Environmental Studies Request Application Form to the CHSRA for review and discussion. The HDC JPA staff included the CHSRA two-year cost estimate for the NEPA delegation/environmental clearance process in the proposed FY26 budget (HDC JPA April 17, 2025 Board Report 7).

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. With the 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.

3. HDC JPA Submits Service Development Plan (SDP) Stage 2 Grant Information to FRA

In November 2024, and with revisions in February 2025, the HDC JPA submitted a FRA Corridor ID Stage 2 grant Scope, Budget and Timeline information for roughly \$2.3 million budget paving the way for completion of the SDP. The Stage 2 grant is in the final approval process with FRA.

In August 2020, the Metro Board of Directors approved the funding and creation of the HDC Intercity Rail Service Development Plan & Funding Plan (SDP) to be submitted to Federal Railroad Administration. To date, the HDC SDP has been funded with:

- \$6.0 million of HDC Measure M funds (Local funds). Allocated \$4.0 million in August 2020 and additional \$2 million for SDP Gap Analysis in May 2024.
- \$1.375 million in CalSTA 2018 Transit Intercity Rail Capital Plan State grant funds under the Network Integration category (CA State funds), and
- \$625,000 from Brightline West (\$250,000 in cash and \$375,000 of in-kind contributions) (private funds).
- \$500,000 awarded in Federal Railroad Administration Corridor ID Program Grant – obligated \$100,000 in August 2024

4. HDC High Speed Rail Project Presence Continues to Expand

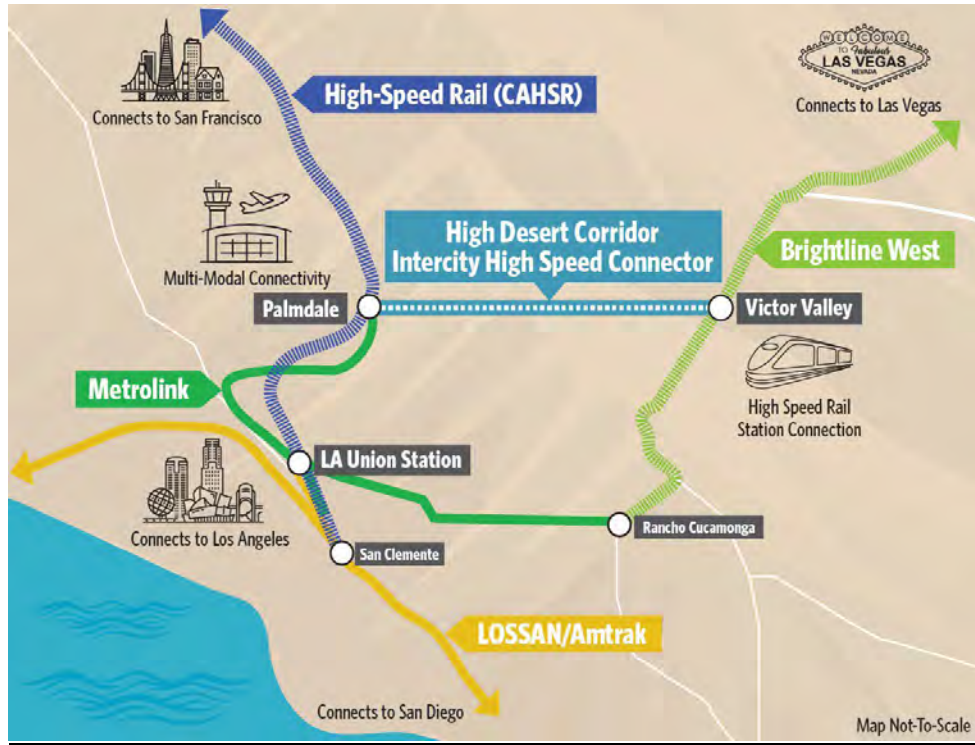
In 2024, the HDC JPA was invited to speak at numerous events, raising the profile of the HDC High Speed Rail (HSR) Project. The trend has continued in 2025 with invitations to speak at the Women In Transportation, Los Angeles Chapter High Speed Rail event, InfraDay 2025 in Los Angeles, US HSR Association 2025 Annual Conference, and the APTA 2025 Rail Conference.

The main talking point used is the High Desert Corridor Intercity High Speed Rail project is a strategic 54-mile connector, linking California's 500+ mile High-Speed Rail network at the Palmdale HSR Station to the 200+ mile Brightline West project to Las Vegas, Nevada at the Victor Valley HSR Station. This is not just about one project—it is about being part of a larger, interconnected Southwest Region High-Speed Rail Network. Together, these projects will provide a seamless passenger connection through a cohesive high speed rail network.

In February 2025, the HDC JPA started posting HDC HSR Project information and maps on LinkedIn. To date, we have roughly 1,140 followers.

5. High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project Benefits, Maps, Highlights

HDC Project Map and Connection to State Network



Project Benefits

- The High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project proposes a 54-mile corridor (Palmdale to Victor Valley) that can be traveled in under 30 minutes providing a future connection to the California High Speed Rail Project and the Brightline West Project.
- One HSR station in Palmdale and one HSR station in Victor Valley: Proposed integration with California High Speed Rail Palmdale Station and Brightline West Victor Valley Station.
- Equitable transportation mobility options. The HDC HSR represents a significant investment in historically underserved and underinvested communities in the high desert communities of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties.
- The HDC JPA HSR Project is consistent with the CA State Rail Plan's objectives to improve connectivity of the California statewide rail network
- The HDC HSR Project will improve travel safety and reliability from rural communities to major urban centers in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties.
- The HDC HSR Project, a zero-emission high speed rail technology, will reduce vehicle miles traveled, contributing to improved air quality and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- The HDC HSR Project is estimated to generate more than \$12 billion in economic activity during development and construction.
- New business development will help create jobs closer to and within the growing communities in Southern California. Access to affordable housing options.

HDC JPA is seeking NEPA environmental approvals for the Intercity High Speed Rail Project with a federal Record of Decision (ROD) and Notice of Determination (NOD). More than \$2 billion of Los Angeles County Measure M funds are dedicated to the project.

Project Milestones

- December 2024: HDC JPA submits Federal State Partnership Grant request for the Southwest Region Integration Project
- December 2024: HDC JPA submits FRA Corridor ID Stage 2 Scope, Budget, Timeline paving the way to complete the High Speed Rail Service Development Plan.
- August 2024: HDC HSR Project signs two Labor Agreements with the CA Trades Councils for construction and US Rail Labor Coalition for Operation and Maintenance.
- May 2024: HDC JPA Board approves, with Metro Board concurrence, the FY2024-25 budget allocating \$6,174,000 to proceed with HDC JPA HSR Project development activities including seeking NEPA environmental approvals.
- December 2023: \$8 million in CA Grant Funds allocated. Master Agreement completed, July 2024.

- December 2023: HDC HSR Project accepted into Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Corridor Identification and Development Program (CID) Stage 1, with a \$500,000 grant award. Grant obligated, August 2024.
- 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).
- 2020: Caltrans declares No Build for the highway portion.
- 2018: High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority (HDC JPA) supports study of an alternative to the HDC.
- 2016: High Desert Corridor Multi-purpose corridor receives California CEQA clearance which included a highway and high-speed rail line in the Locally Approved Alternative (LPA). EIR/EIS completed in 2016 after an 8-year Public Process.

HDC High Speed Rail project variations from 2016 CEQA Locally Preferred Alternative

- Removal of Freeway Component, Caltrans “No-Build” Alternative, Dec 2020.
- Rail alignment between Palmdale and Victorville is located within the footprint studied by Caltrans EIR/EIS except:
 - **Palmdale Station Connection** – Revised to connect to current California HSR Palmdale Station design – realigned approximately 1.5 miles of track.
 - **Victor Valley Station Connection** – Revised to connect to Brightline West I-15 median in-line station at Dale Evans Pkwy in Victor Valley – realigned approximately 4 miles of track.
 - **Southern alignment near Mojave River to avoid Ecological Sensitive Area (ESA) and a historical San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Serrano Tribal Village.**



April 17, 2025, High Desert Corridor JPA Board Item 11

Attachment A

Financial and Business Advisory Support Quarterly Update

January-March 2025

- Consultant team under contract as of June 2024
- Strategic part of building HDC JPA organizational capacity
- Team led by InfraStrategies, includes 9% DBE participation
- Broad range of activities, including:
 - **Financial Plan Development** – identification and tracking of current and potential funding/financing sources and uses of funds
 - **Grants Management** – identifying and pursuing grant opportunities, tracking and ensuring compliance with grant and other funding requirements
 - **Organizational Management/Governance Structure Development** – assist HDC JPA in assessing organizational needs, developing strategy to ensure ability to implement program and meet requirements and meet evolving needs
 - **Project Development Support** – ongoing engagement with key stakeholders, identification of issues and strategies relating to advancement of project
 - **Procurement Support** – assist HDC JPA in developing, advancing the retention of necessary support services
 - **Facilitation Support/Administration** – coordination with HDC JPA leadership, within team, with other consultant teams; record-keeping
 - **DBE Monitoring and Compliance** – establish process and reporting mechanisms for ensuring DBE goal compliance

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE QUARTER

- Provided ongoing support to HDC JPA leadership
- Refined and updated Financial and Budget Model and Sources and Uses Dashboard Tool, included in budget presentation
 - Provides HDC JPA with state-of-the-art means to track and manage funding, inform budget preparation
 - Provides transparency
- Supported HDC JPA and LA County staff in Engineering, Design and Related Services (EDS) procurement, including preparation for interviews and development of scope for first task order
- Developed project summary materials for use with stakeholders

- Identified potential future funding/financing sources, based on alignment with project needs, eligibilities
- Developing background information and elements for HDC JPA strategy regarding State Legislature consideration of the extension of the Cap-and-Trade program
- Tracking relevant state legislation to help develop HDC JPA strategy regarding other state initiatives
- Developed preliminary federal and state grant strategy, including assessment of federal policy changes on pending and future funding opportunities
- Supported HDC JPA leadership in participation in California High-Speed Rail Authority Industry Day
- Developed initial strategy for advancing HDC JPA organizational capacity and structure based on peer agencies and other resources
- Supported HDC JPA leadership in prioritizing ROW activities, with a focus on identifying potentially sensitive acquisitions
- Supported HDC JPA leadership regarding advancement into National Environmental Policy Act process
- Participated in regular meetings with California High-Speed Rail Authority staff regarding Palmdale Station integration.
- Supported HDC JPA leadership in planning for and engaging with Federal Railroad Administration.
- Supported HDC JPA in coordination with LA Metro and LA County Public Works
- Developed materials for reporting DBE participation for inclusion in future invoices and to be available upon request

KEY UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Continued activities in above-mentioned areas
- Potential preparation of grant application(s) for new federal funding opportunities
- Identification of policies for Board consideration
- Support of HDC JPA in advancing through federal Corridor Identification and Development Program
- Support of HDC JPA in updating the draft Service Development Plan