



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

MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, July 10, 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/84324055254?pwd=eCQz7wvd11NjPnMbe3iv3Zshd90W1K.1>

Meeting ID: 843 2405 5254 Passcode: 496108

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

Meeting ID: 843 2405 5254 Passcode: 496108

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@highdesertcorrdior.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 April 17, 2025, HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom webinar format.

HDC JPA BOARD REGULAR CALENDAR

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

Recommended Action: *Receive and file report.*

7. HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8. ADJOURNMENT. Next HDC JPA Board of Directors Meeting is October 9, 2025, 2 pm

AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 5

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: July 10, 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 – **Chair Barger calls virtual Board meeting to order at 2:00pm**
2. ROLL CALL – **Quorum Present, 6 voting members as follows:**

HDC JPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS – present/voting members

Chair Kathryn Barger, Supervisor, 5th Supervisorial District, Los Angeles County

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 STAFF

Executive Director: Arthur V. Sohikian

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

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Director Najarian

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – No Public Comment

5. HDC JPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES/RECAP OF PROCEEDINGS

Recommended Action: *Approve January 16, 2025, HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom format.*

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

KB	EB	GR	LHL	EO	AN
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

HDC JPA BOARD REGULAR CALENDAR

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

Recommended Action: *Received and Filde*

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.

Approved Item 7 by Motion by Chair Barger and second by Director Najarian

KB	EB	GR	LHL	EO	AN
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

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.

Approved Item 8 by Motion by Chair Barger, second by Director Hughes-Leslie

KB	EB	GR	LHL	EO	AN
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

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.

Approved Item 9 by Motion by Director Ohlsen and second by Chair Barger

KB	EB	GR	LHL	EO	AN
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

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.

Approved Item 10 by Motion by Vice Chair Becerra and second by Director Reyes

KB	EB	GR	LHL	EO	AN
Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

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 at 3:05pm. Next HDC JPA Board of Directors Meeting is July 10, 2025,
2 pm**



AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 6

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: July 10, 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 22, 2025, the Metro Board of Directors unanimously approved the HDC JPA FY26 Budget Work Program of \$11,937,350 from Measure M funds. HDC staff in concluding the FY25 Work Plan activities including: 1) the creation of a financial dashboard for the HDC JPA, 2) continue to work on the Federal Railroad Administration Corridor Identification and Development Program (FRA CID) Service Development and Funding Plan with Metro, 3) on-board the Engineering, Design and Related Services team, and 4) be continue work on the HDC Intercity High Speed Rail Project environmental clearance approvals.

The Financial & Business Advisory Support and Engineering, Design and Related Services Teams are currently working with HDC JPA Executive Management on various tasks, their Updates are 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 approved FY26 budget. 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 continues to be in review with the 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. CA Trade and Invest Position Paper

In 2023, the state awarded \$8 million in grant funding to HDC through the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) – funding that is being put to work today to advance the project and underscores the viability of continued investment through a future Cap-and-Invest Program.

Investing in the Bookends: The HDC Intercity High Speed Rail Project represents a valuable investment in the Southern California rail system, providing service and access in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties and beyond. The HDC JPA Position Paper is in Attachment A.

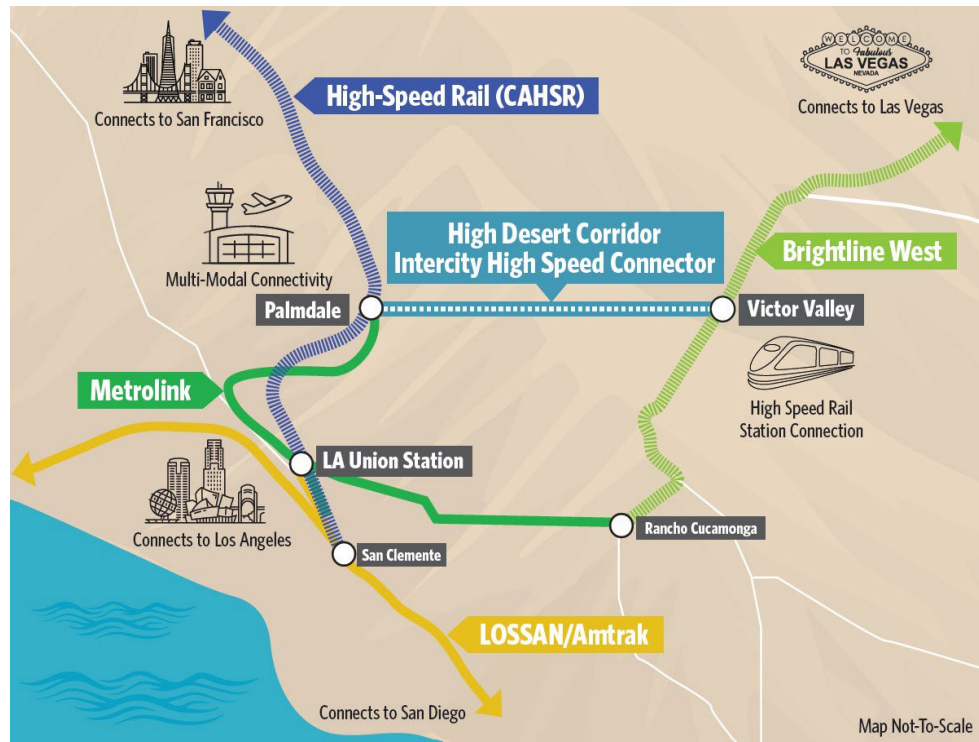
5. HDC High Speed Rail Project Presence Continues to Expand

In 2025, the HDC JPA has been a speaker at numerous events, such as Women In Transportation, Los Angeles Chapter High Speed Rail event, InfraDay 2025 in Los Angeles, US HSR Association 2025 Annual Conference, the APTA 2025 Rail Conference and the CA Assembly Los Angeles County Delegation at the invite of Assemblyman Juan Carrillo. Presentation in Attachment A.

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.

6. 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.

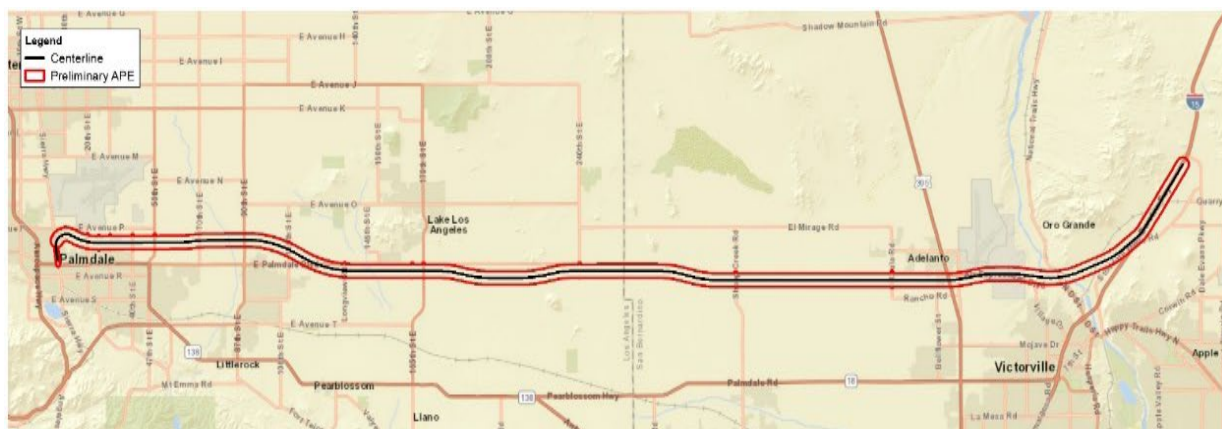
Project Milestones

- 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

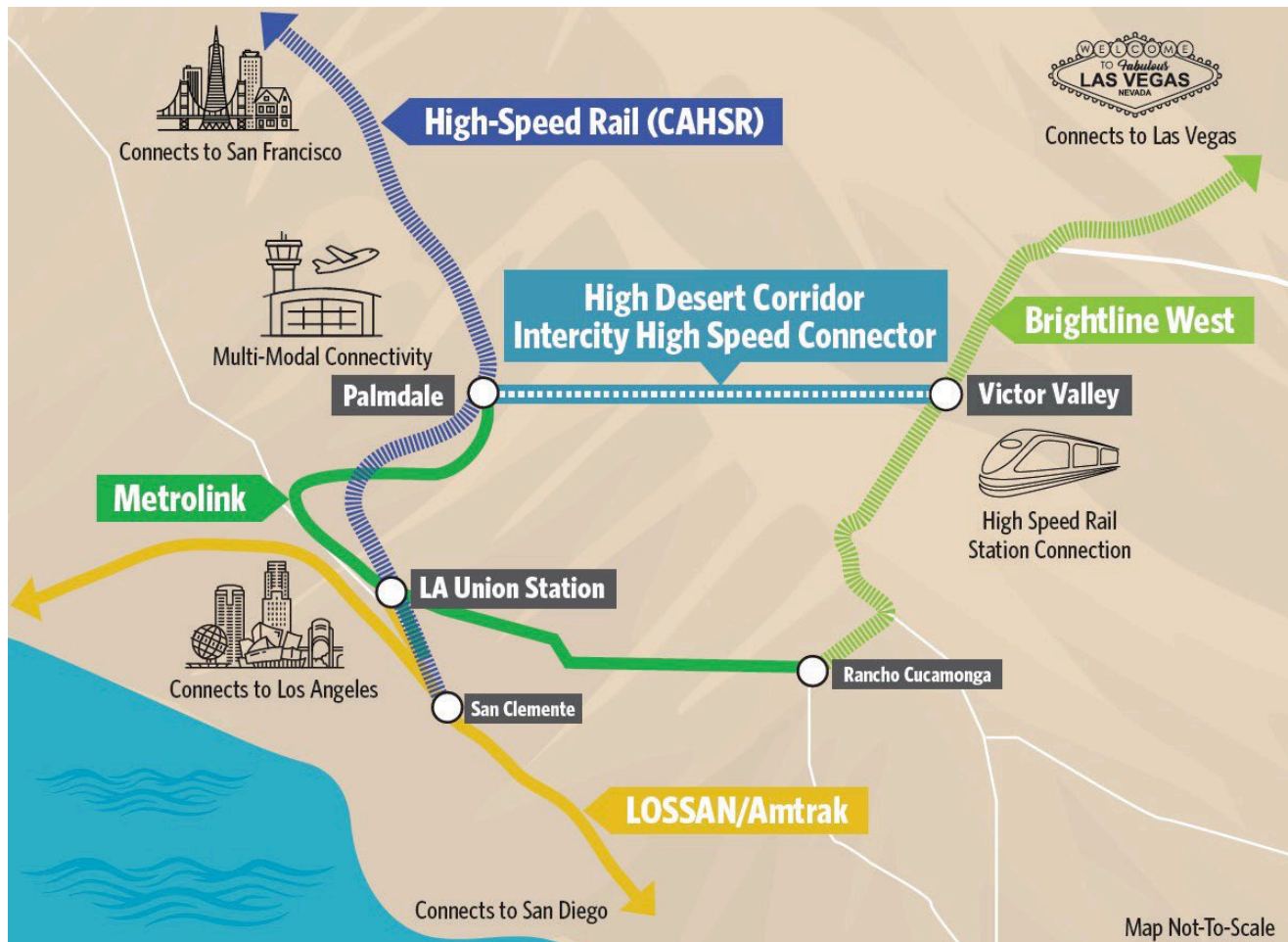
- Removal of Freeway Component, Caltrans “No-Build” Alternative, Dec 2020.
- Rail alignment between Palmdale and Victorville is located within the footprint studied by Caltrans EIR/EIS except:
 - **Palmdale Station Connection** – Revised to connect to current California HSR Palmdale Station design – 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.**



High Desert Corridor

The Case for Inclusion in the Cap-and-Invest Program

The High Desert Corridor High-Speed Intercity Rail Project (HDC) is a 54-mile, zero-emission passenger line linking California's 500+ mile High-Speed Rail network to the 200+ mile Brightline West project to Las Vegas, Nevada at the City of Palmdale High Speed Rail Station, creating the Southwest Region High-Speed Rail Network. In 2023, the state awarded \$8 million in grant funding to HDC through the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) – funding that is being put to work today to advance the project, and underscores the viability of continued investment through a future Cap-and-Invest Program.



The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) has adopted goals and strategies relating to both the extension of the current Cap-and-Trade program and the continued development of the CHSR system. Key elements of the Metro legislative strategy include:

- Ensuring Cap & Trade funds are allocated to transportation and that Los Angeles County receives a proportionate share; and
- Ensuring that any extension of Cap & Trade funds for the California High-Speed Rail Project continue to invest in essential high speed rail projects that provide connectivity and utility in Los Angeles County.

The High Desert Corridor meets and advances key Cap & Trade (or Cap & Invest) program goals, addresses issues identified by the Legislative Analyst's Office, and is consistent with the Governor's proposal, including advancing the CA High Speed Rail Project. Key benefits include:

- **Environmental:** The HDC will utilize zero-emission, state-of-the-art rail technology. By diverting an estimated 3.5 million passengers from autos and reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), the project is projected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 46,000 metric tons annually.
- **Advancing Equity:** The HDC is an investment in a region of the state that has suffered from historic underinvestment and service. All six of the cities in the High Desert have poverty rates exceeding state and county averages. In addition to creating economic opportunity through job creation, the HDC will also improve access to jobs and housing and is consistent with the region's Sustainable Communities Strategy.
- **Jobs and Economic Growth:** The project is projected to generate 6,400 jobs annually and over \$12 billion in economic activity during its development and construction and will spur long-term job creation through operations, related development, and improved access. The HDC Joint Powers Agency has entered into labor agreements for the construction, operation and maintenance of the project, ensuring high-quality, well-paying jobs.
- **Improving Safety:** By providing an alternative to driving, the HDC will improve safety on High Desert roads and highways such as SR 138, which is a designated safety corridor due to higher-than-average accident rates. An estimated 3,700 crashes, 20 of them fatal, will be avoided.
- **Enhancing Rail and Transit Network Connectivity:** The HDC will carry an estimated 10.5 million riders annually, tying together the CHSR and BLW systems and expanding travel options throughout the larger region. It will enhance local transit services in both the Palmdale and Victor Valley areas, and will connect to Metrolink service, growing ridership on the Antelope Valley Line.
- **Timeliness:** the HDC secured California Environmental Quality Act clearance in 2016 and is targeting federal environmental approval in 2026, clearing the way for final design, construction and delivery of benefits through operation. Implementation of the HDC aligns with timing of the BLW project.
- **Investing in the Bookends:** The HDC represents a valuable investment in the Southern California rail system, providing service and access in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties.
- **Leveraging Other Funding and Investments:** Cap-and-Invest funding would leverage other state, federal, local and private investments, making the investment more cost-effective and helping access additional funding. The HDC has secured over \$2 billion in Los Angeles County Measure M funds, \$8 million from TIRCP, and \$2.8 million in federal funds, and has significant indications of interest from the private sector.
- **Community Engagement:** the project is the result of years of engagement with communities and key stakeholders along the corridor, including development of an agreement with Native American Tribes for the repatriation of artifacts found during development and construction.

For additional information, please contact HDC JPA Executive Director Arthur Sohikian at Sohikian@highdesertcorridor.org or visit www.highdesertcorridor.org



**HIGH DESERT
CORRIDOR**
JOINT POWERS AGENCY

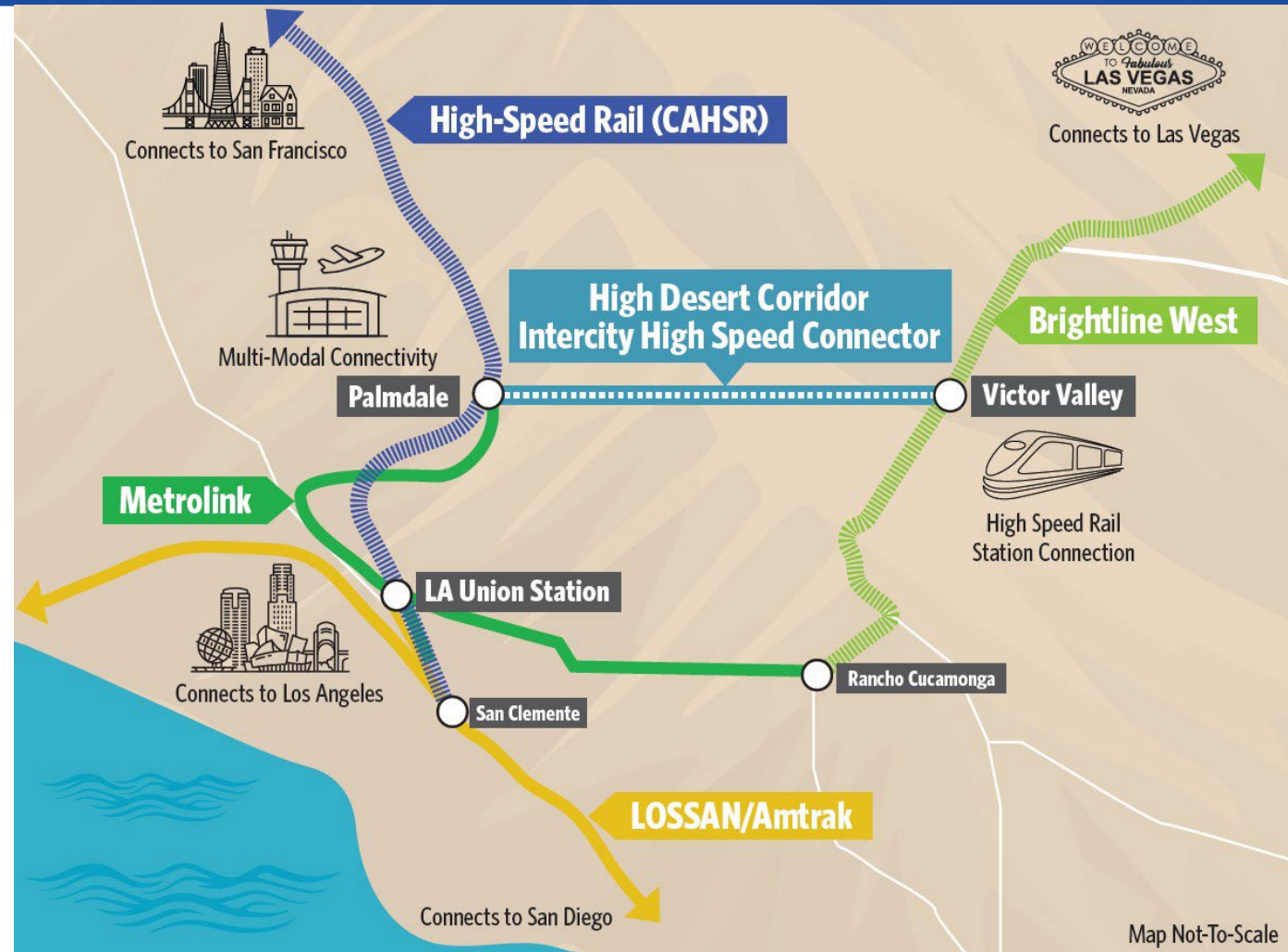
HDC JPA July 10, 2025 Board Report 6 -- Executive Directors Update Attachment A

California Assembly Los Angeles County Delegation

Presentation by:
Arthur Sohikian, Executive Director, High Desert Corridor JPA

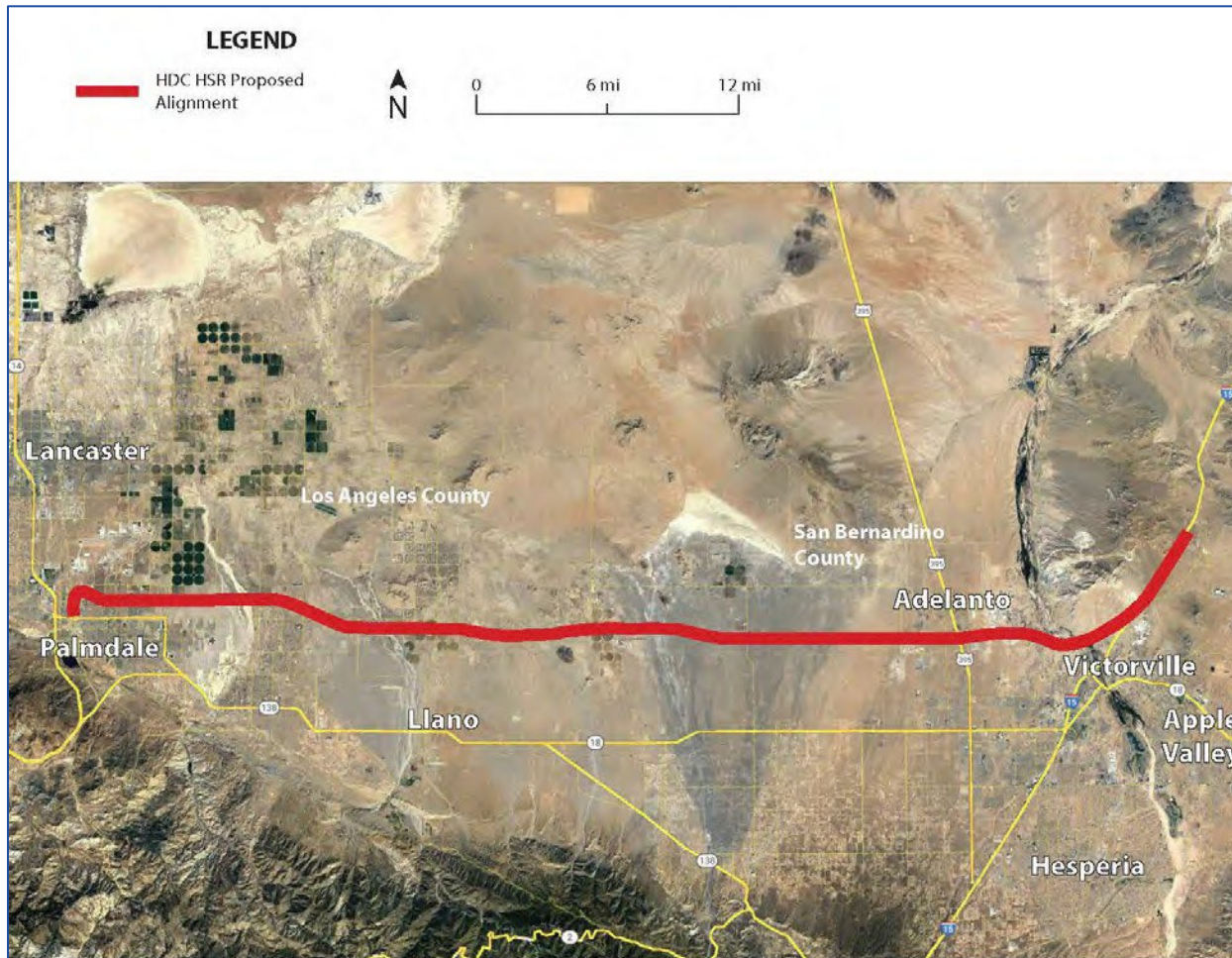
July 8, 2025

HDC High Speed Rail Connects CA High Speed Rail & Brightline West



- ✓ 54-mile High Speed Intercity Rail Connector Project
- ✓ EIR/EIS Completed in 2016
- ✓ 8+ year public process, with Federal Railroad Administration as Federal Cooperating Agency
- ✓ HDC Seeking NEPA/Record of Decision approvals
- ✓ Two Environmentally Cleared Stations by:
 - CAHSR Palmdale, LA County, 2021
 - Brightline West, Victor Valley, San Bernardino County, 2023
- ✓ To date, ALL funds expended are local and state

High Desert Corridor JPA Governance



- ✓ The High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency (HDC JPA) Members include:
 - 1) Los Angeles County
 - 2) Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro)
 - 3) Cities of Lancaster & Palmdale in LA County and Adelanto & Victorville in San Bernardino County
- ✓ Immediate Communities served are considered underserved disadvantaged equity focused Opportunity Zone areas

High Desert Corridor Funding



Local - LA County Measure M funds committed by Metro are divided into two allocations per the Measure M Expenditure Plan:
\$170M in early funds available for predevelopment & ROW activities: \$140 million remaining (May 2025)
Funds available for capital construction: \$1.86 billion (available in out years)

State - In 2023, CalSTA awarded \$8 million TIRCP funds for 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)

\$2.3 million for Corridor ID Step 2 (Pending FRA final approval)

HDC JPA seeks to leverage existing funds to advance the project to construction

A Prime Candidate for Cap-and-Invest Funding

- HDC received \$8 million in TIRCP funding for project development
- Capital funding would follow-through on initial investment
- Investment would help ensure fair share for LA County
- Key “bookend” investment tied to HSR commitment
- Will be ready to go to construction in next few years; aligns with timing of Brightline West

Meets Key Program Goals

- ✓ **GHG reductions** - zero emission trains reduce 46,000 tons of GHG emissions annually
- ✓ **Equity** – jobs, clean transportation, access to housing and economic opportunities for chronically underserved areas
- ✓ **Jobs** – estimated 6,400 jobs and \$12 B in economic activity during construction
- ✓ **Safety** – prevent an estimated 3,700 crashes, including 20 fatalities
- ✓ **Leverage** – draws other State, federal and potentially private investment
- ✓ **Connectivity** – ties to HSR network and Metrolink, estimated to carry 10.5 million riders annually

Making Real Progress; Need to Avoid Unwarranted Delays

- SB71(Wiener)passed Senate 36-0;provides CEQA exemptions to variety of transit & rail projects
- SB 131, enacted as a trailer bill to the budget, provided a series of new CEQA exemptions, including for high-speed rail facilities. With a minor clarification that has no impacts beyond the HDC, SB 71 could build on the language of SB 131 to make it clear that the HDC is exempt from further/additional CEQA review
- HDC aligns with key goals, requirements of SB-71
 - HDC JPA is eligible agency
 - Institutes new passenger rail service
 - Zero-emission trains
 - Project Labor Agreement in place
- Seeking coverage for HDC, based on existing 2016 environmental clearance
 - Avoid potential delay and litigation tied to CEQA re-evaluation
 - Bolster case for streamlined federal NEPA review

HDC JPA July 10, 2025 Board Report 6 -- Executive Directors Update Attachment A

Attachment A

Financial and Business Advisory Support Quarterly Update April-June 2025

- Consultant team under contract as of June 2024, closing out year 1
- Important part of building HDC JPA organizational capacity
- Team led by InfraStrategies, includes 9% DBE participation
- Broad range of activities, including:
 - **Facilitation Support/Administration** – coordination with HDC JPA leadership, within team, with other consultant teams; record-keeping
 - **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 necessary support services
 - **DBE Monitoring and Compliance** – establish process and reporting mechanisms for ensuring DBE goal compliance

Major activities/accomplishments for the quarter

- Provided ongoing support to HDC JPA leadership
- Refined and updated Financial and Budget Model and Sources and Uses Dashboard Tool, utilized in April HDC JPA Board budget presentation and in LA Metro budget presentations
 - 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
- Identified and tracked state legislative priorities

- Assessing changes in federal policies and grant criteria to position HDC for submission of future grant applications
- Drafted letter to House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee regarding federal surface transportation reauthorization for submission by HDC JPA Chair
- Supported HDC JPA leadership in engagement with California State Transportation Agency and Caltrans, including engagement in federal reauthorization working group
- Supported HDC JPA leadership in engagement with US High Speed Rail Association, including in preparation for annual Washington, DC conference in May
- Supported HDC JPA leadership in engagement with California Transit Association, including facilitating membership and participating in spring legislative conference
- Developing project funding plan
- Supported HDC JPA leadership in engagement with potential private sector partners
- 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
- Developed preliminary federal and state grant strategy, including assessment of federal policy changes on pending and future funding opportunities
- 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
- 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
- Development of draft funding plan
- 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

HDC JPA July 10, 2025 Board Report 6 -- Executive Directors Update Attachment A

Engineering, Design, & Related Advisory Services (EDS) Quarterly Update April-June 2025

- EDS Consultant team under contract as of May 2025, initial five-year contract
- Notice-to-Proceed (NTP) was issued for Task Order #1 on May 27, 2025, encompassing the first fiscal year (through June 2026)
- Expands the HDC JPA organizational capacity by providing extensive project management, engineering, and advisory resources
- EDS team is led by HDR Engineering, Inc., includes 23% DBE participation
- Broad range of activities, including:
 - **Engineering and Design Services** - advance conceptual design to support the project development process and to define the project adequately for environmental clearance and establish right-of-way requirements
 - **Cost Estimation, Scheduling, Value Engineering** - provide cost estimates, schedules, and value engineering/risk management services that are aligned with Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Guidance on development and implementation of railroad capital projects
 - **Real Property Identification, Planning, & Acquisition** - provide support for right-of-way/real property identification, planning, and acquisition strategy
 - **Stakeholder Coordination** - ongoing engagement with key stakeholders, identification of issues and strategies relating to advancement and approval of the project
 - **Environmental Support Services** - provide input and materials required to support environmental review, strategy, and project planning as they relate to design and right-of-way
 - **Support of Business Strategy and Procurement** - Support HDC JPA with development of business and procurement strategy recommendations regarding Project implementation
 - **OPTIONAL SCOPE: Preliminary Eng. Design Services** – prepare preliminary engineering plans, specifications and cost estimates (up to 30% PS&E) for the HSR component and related infrastructure to support the HDC JPA in coordination with the FRA

Major activities/accomplishments for the quarter:

- Initiate project management and contract administration activities
- Execute subcontracts for all 1st tier subconsultants supporting Task Order No. 1
- Facilitate and lead Project Development Team (PDT) coordination and meetings
- Research and update project reference documents to support conceptual design
- Establish an initial Basis of Design to guide conceptual engineering activities
- Update project impacts/footprint delineation to support environmental clearance
- Prepare utility notification letters to obtain utility as-builts & record plans
- Prepare Draft Geotechnical Exploration Plan to plan anticipated field activities
- Obtain supplemental aerial topographic mapping

- Support Right-of-Way and Real Property Consultant with identification of ROW easements and mapping
- Initiate coordination and participation with key stakeholders
- Provide ongoing support to HDC JPA leadership

Key upcoming activities:

- Continue activities in above-mentioned areas
- Advance conceptual design of mainline tracks, local roadway connectivity, station integration, and grade separations
- Advance conceptual right-of-way plans and tabulated right-of-way requirements
- Send utility notification letters and update utility mapping and conflict determination
- Initiate coordination with key stakeholders such as Brightline West, CHSRA, Caltrans, corridor cities, and LA County
- Coordinate with the HDC JPA Consultants and Strategic Advisors
- Support development of HDC Financial Plan
- Support HDC JPA in updating the draft Service Development Plan
- Support preparation of grant application(s) for new federal funding opportunities, as required