



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

MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, January 15, 2026 – 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/84120916298?pwd=VE5bgcIEpN6aSBBrUJgVrMLj0KxXP4m.1>

Meeting ID: 841 2091 6298 Passcode: 238138

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	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 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, Mayor, City of Palmdale
Ara Najarian, Director, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER ALTERNATES

Vacant, 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

CALL TO ORDER – Kathryn Barger, Chair

ROLL CALL – Arthur V. Sohikian, Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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 participate by providing written and oral comments 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.

CC1. HDC JPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES/RECAP OF PROCEEDINGS

Recommended Action: Approve October 9, 2025, HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom webinar format.

HDC JPA BOARD REGULAR CALENDAR

RC1. HDC INTERCITY HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT UPDATE – HDC JPA Executive Director & Consultants

Recommended Action: *Receive and file report.*

RC2. HDC JPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – HDC JPA Executive Director

Recommended Action: *Receive and file report.*

RC3. HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

RC4. ADJOURNMENT. Next HDC JPA Board of Directors Meeting is April 9, 2026, 2pm



AGENDA REPORT – CONSENT ITEM 1

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: January 15, 2026

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 9, 2025, HDC JPA Board Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom webinar format.

1. October 9, 2025 HDC JPA CALL TO ORDER – Chair Barger calls virtual Board meeting to order at 2:02pm

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

HDC JPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS – present/voting members

Kathryn Barger, Chair, Los Angeles County
Elizabeth Becerra, Mayor, City of Victorville
Gabriel Reyes, Mayor, City of Adelanto
Eric Ohlsen, Council Member, City of Palmdale

HDC JPA STAFF

Executive Director: Arthur V. Sohikian

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

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Chair Barger

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – No Public Comment

5. HDC JPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES/RECAP OF PROCEEDINGS

Recommended Action: Approve July 10, 2025, HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom webinar format.

Approved Item 5 by Motion by Chair Barger, second by Director Reyes

KB	EB	GR	EO		
Y	Y	Y	Y		

HDC JPA BOARD REGULAR CALENDAR

6. PROPOSED 2026 HDC JPA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING CALENDAR

Recommended Action: *Approve Proposed 2026 HDC JPA Board of Directors Meeting Calendar*

- A. January 15, 2026, 2:00 to 3:30pm/virtual
- B. April 9, 2026, 2:00 to 3:30pm/virtual
- C. July 9, 2026, 2:00 to 3:30pm/virtual
- D. October 8, 2026, 2:00 to 3:30pm/virtual

Approved Item 6 by Motion by Vice Chair Becerra, second by Chair Barger

KB	EB	GR	EO		
Y	Y	Y	Y		

7. RESOLUTION OF THE HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY AGREEMENTS WITH THE CALIFORNIA HIGH SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY AS THE LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY TO CONDUCT THE TASKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT WORK THAT IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A RECORD OF DECISION

Recommended Action:

- A. Approve HDC JPA Resolution FY25/26-01 (Attachment A) of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency authorizing the Executive Director of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency to negotiate and execute all necessary agreements with the California High Speed Rail Authority as the Federal Lead Agency to complete all remaining tasks associated with the National Environmental Policy Act work that is required to obtain a Record of Decision.
- B. Authorize the Executive Director and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary agreements.

Approved Item 7 by Motion by Vice Chair Becerra, second by Director Ohlsen

KB	EB	GR	EO		
Y	Y	Y	Y		

8. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY AGREEMENTS WITH CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CALTRANS) FOR THE HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR INTERCITY HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT

Recommended Action:

- A. Authorize the Executive Director and Los Angeles County Counsel to Negotiate all necessary Agreements with Caltrans for the High Desert Corridor Intercity High Speed Rail Project.
- B. Authorize the Executive Director and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary documents and agreements.

Approved Item 8 by Motion by Chair Barger, second by Director Phlsen

KB	EB	GR	EO		
Y	Y	Y	Y		

- 9. HDC JPA ENGINEERING AND DESIGN SERVICES UPDATE REPORT – HDC JPA Executive Director, Director of Engineering & Consultants**

Recommended Action: *Receive and file report.*

- 10. FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICES UPDATE ON THE PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING THE HDC INTERCITY HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT FINANCIAL PLAN – HDC JPA Executive Director & Consultants**

Recommended Action: *Receive and file report.*

- 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 2:49pm. Next HDC JPA Board of Directors Meeting is January 15, 2026, 2pm**



AGENDA REPORT – Regular Calendar Item 1

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: January 15, 2026

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

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

Subject: HDC Intercity High Speed Rail Project National Environmental Policy Act Update

Recommendation Action:

Receive and File Update Report

Background

The High Desert Corridor Intercity High Speed Rail Project (HDC HSR) entails construction and operation of a passenger high-speed rail (HSR) feeder service between Palmdale and Victor Valley, California. The Project would connect existing Metrolink service and future California High-Speed Rail (CHSRA) service in Palmdale with the Brightline West (Desert Xpress Enterprises, LLC) High-Speed Train Project in Victor Valley to provide rail service from Los Angeles, California to Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Project was evaluated in the High Desert Corridor Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS), which was certified by Caltrans in June 2016. A lawsuit was upheld in 2019 which prohibited the acquisition of right-of-way (ROW) for the highway and bicycle facility elements. However, the HSR component could still advance into design led by the HDC JPA. In 2021, Caltrans adopted the No-Build option as the Preferred Alternative for the project. This triggered a need for a federal lead agency to complete a NEPA Re-Evaluation for the revised, HSR project.

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. The HDC HSR Project objective is to progress with the NEPA Re-Evaluation process and receive a Record of Decision (ROD).

In April 2025, the approved HDC JPA FY26 Budget included the CHSRA two-year cost estimate for the NEPA delegation/environmental clearance process.

In August 2025, the HDC JPA submitted an Environmental Studies Request Application to the CHSRA. The CHSRA submitted a request to FRA for NEPA Assignment to become the Federal Lead Agency to complete the NEPA process for HDC HSR. Effective September 5, 2025, the CHSRA assumed the role of NEPA lead agency. The CHSRA letter was presented to the Board on October 9, 2025, Board Agenda Item 11 – HDC JPA Executive Director Report. A resolution was approved by the Board on October 9, 2025 Board Agenda Item 7, authorizing the Executive Director of the High Desert Corridor JPA to negotiate and execute all necessary agreements with CHSRA as the lead federal agency to conduct the tasks associated with NEPA work that is required to obtain a ROD.

Current Status

The HDC JPA is working closely with CHSRA on the NEPA Re-Evaluation process through ongoing submittals and reviews with monthly progress meetings. Updates on the progress of the HDC HSR NEPA environmental process are contained in Attachment A.

The HDC JPA looks forward to the continued working partnership with CHSRA and FRA on the NEPA Re-Evaluation Environmental Clearance process and working with stakeholders to achieve the best high speed rail project for the high-desert communities in San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties.

Milestone Schedule

Deliverable	Date
Draft NEPA Re-Eval Submittal	Early Winter 2026
Informal Consultation with USFWS Complete	Spring 2026
NEPA Re-Eval and Service Plan Public Outreach	Summer 2026
Section 106 Programmatic Agreement Approval	Summer 2026
Air Quality GCD update Letter Approval	Summer 2026
Final NEPA Re-Evaluation Approval	Fall 2026
MMRP Approval	Fall 2026
ROD Issuance	Late Winter 2026/2027



**HIGH DESERT
CORRIDOR**
JOINT POWERS AGENCY

HDC JPA January 15 2026 Board Regular Calendar Item 1

HDC Intercity High Speed Rail Project NEPA Update

Background and Current Status

- Caltrans prepared and certified the High Desert Project in EIR/EIS in 2016
- Caltrans adopted No-Build as Preferred Alternative for Highway in 2021; triggered need for Federal lead agency to complete NEPA for High Speed Rail-Only project
- JPA engaged in discussions with FRA through 2024
- FRA delegated NEPA Lead Agency Authority to CHSRA in September 2025
- Technical studies underway to support NEPA Re-Evaluation efforts
- FY25/26 budget includes NEPA Re-Evaluation costs for CHRSA

Coordination with CHSRA



- Monthly Environmental PDT Meetings held with CHSRA
- Revised Project Description approved by CHSRA in September 2025
- CHSRA sent Tribal re-initiation letters in November 2025
- CHSRA sent letters to potential Cooperating/Participating Agencies in November 2025
 - STB
 - Caltrans District 8
 - EPA
 - FAA
 - FPB
 - USACE
 - USFWS
- Ongoing efforts on cultural resources, biological resources, and other resources

Cultural Resources



- Area of Potential Effect (APE) approved by CHSRA in October 2025
- Architectural and archeological field surveys completed in October 2025
 - Resulted in minor APE expansion in Victorville area
 - (3) new eligible built resources identified
- Historical Architecture Survey Report and Archeological Survey Report submitted to CHSRA for review in December 2025

Biological Resources



- JPA met with USFWS in June 2025 to review revised project and potential impacts
- Submitted draft USFWS Re-Initiation letter to CHRSA for review in December 2025
 - Recommend no change in impacts/effects to listed species from 2016 HDC EIR/EIS
 - No new listed species/habitat within revised project area
 - Proposed species unlikely to be officially listed before ROD
 - JPA and CHSRA committed to implementing the 2016 HDC/EIR avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures
- Consultation Re-Initiation to begin with USFWS in January 2026

Other Resource Areas

- JPA staff working with City of Victorville and LADWP to determine potential Section 4(f) status of Rockview Nature Park
 - Park consists of two parcels, LADWP-owned parcel will be impacted
 - Staff seeking clarification on primary use of LADWP-owned parcel
- JPA staff coordinating with CHRSA SMEs on approach to air quality conformity
 - Potential to utilize determination from 2016 EIR/EIS
 - Will require FRA coordination and approval
 - Meeting in January 2026 to decide path forward



Coordination with FRA



- JPA submitted first draft NEPA Re-Evaluation to FRA in September 2020
 - Additional drafts were submitted through December 2023
 - Key comments:
 - Highlight outreach/engagement
 - Shorten document/remove redundancies
 - Emphasize regulatory updates
- Ongoing coordination between FRA, JPA, CHSRA, Tribes, and other stakeholders throughout process
- FRA delegated NEPA Lead Agency Authority to CHSRA in September 2025

Coordination with Surface Transportation Board (STB)



- JPA staff has been in contact with STB's Office of Environmental Analysis
 - JPA filed petition for exemption in September 2021 to construct and operate HDC
 - STB opened a proceeding in December 2021
 - STB noted participation in FRA's Re-Evaluation process as a Cooperating Agency
 - STB will make a final decision after environmental review is complete
 - Exemption could make CEQA inapplicable through federal preemption
- STB declined opportunity to be Cooperating Agency in favor of Participating Agency (December 2025)

Milestones Schedule

Deliverable	Date
Draft NEPA Re-Eval Submittal	Early Winter 2026
Informal Consultation with USFWS Complete	Spring 2026
NEPA Re-Eval and Service Plan Public Outreach	Summer 2026
Section 106 Programmatic Agreement Approval	Summer 2026
Air Quality GCD Update Letter Approval	Summer 2026
Final NEPA Re-Evaluation Approval	Fall 2026
MMRP Approval	Fall 2026
ROD Issuance	Late Winter 2026/2027

Next Steps

- Submit NEPA Re-Evaluation to CHRSA, along with engineering plan sets
- Re-initiate consultation with USFWS
- Determine approach to air quality conformity
- Ongoing coordination with project stakeholders such as FRA, Caltrans, City of Victorville, LADWP, Tribes, and others



AGENDA REPORT – Regular Calendar Item 2

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: January 15, 2026

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 has been implementing the FY26 Planning First budget approach of completing the federal NEPA environmental process and continuing work on the Federal Railroad Administration Corridor Identification and Development Program (FRA CID) Service Development Plan.

The Financial & Business Advisory Support team continues its work on the funding plan and as lead of the federal and state grant funding applications the HDC will submit in 2026. More information contained in Attachment A. The Engineering, Design and Related Services team continues its work on the conceptual design plans for the environmental approval process and we have ramped our work with Caltrans District 8 for the work within the I-15. More information contained in 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. The High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project objective is to progress with the 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.

In September 2025, the CHSRA sent a letter to the HDC JPA assuming the role of lead federal NEPA agency. An Environmental Project Update is included as Regular Calendar Item 1.

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 to complete the SDP. The Stage 1 grant ended on November 30, 2025 and the HDC JPA awaits further direction on the Stage 2 grant.

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, 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 JPA Preparing to Submit Federal and State Funding Grant Applications

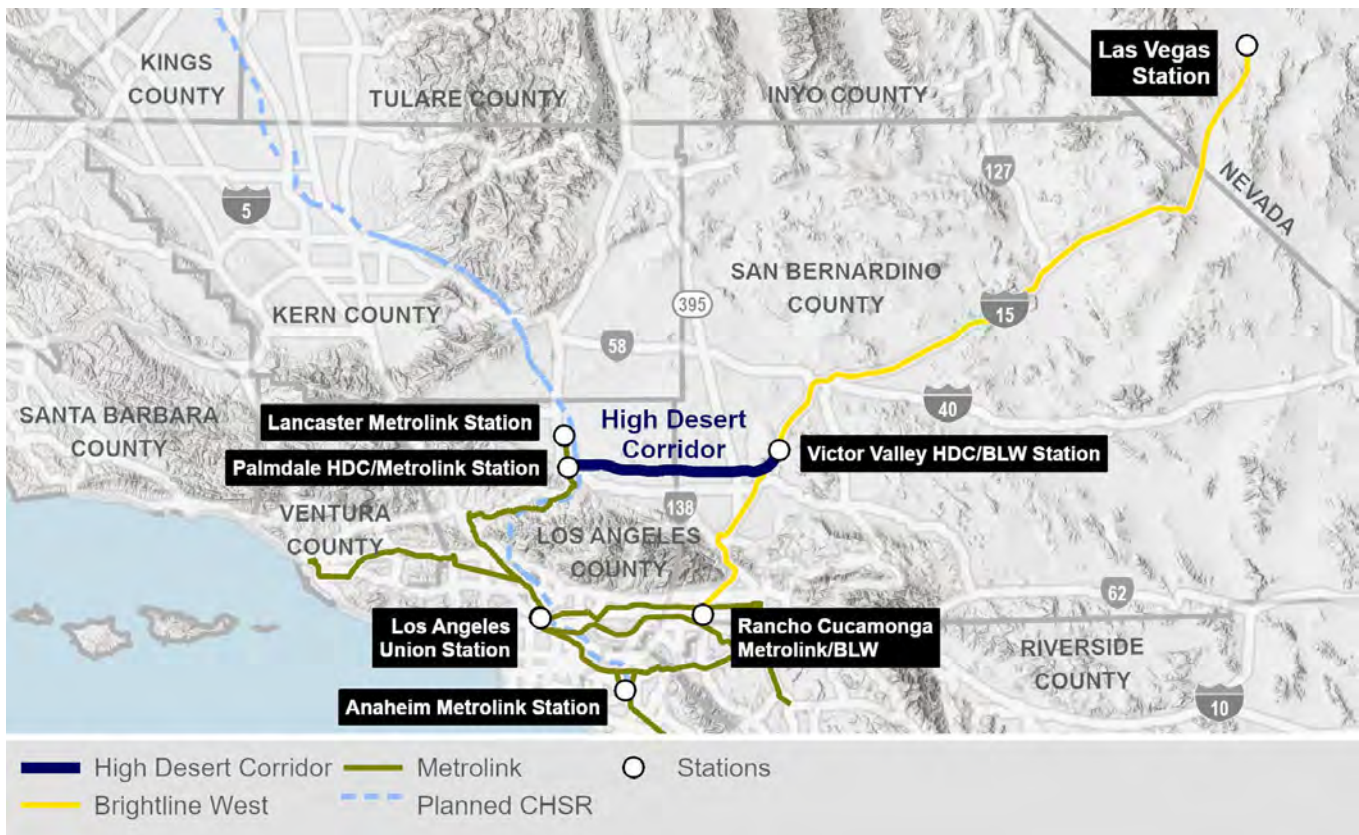
In 2026, the HDC JPA will submit federal and state funding grant applications for the HDC HSR Project.

The Department of Transportation (US DOT), National Railroad Partnership Program/Federal State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program (FSP) application is due February 6, 2026. The HDC JPA will submit the High Desert Corridor System Integration Project application that will focus on optimizing the connectivity of facilities and operations of the rail systems serving over 20 million people across two states to deliver safety, economic and mobility benefits.

US DOT FFY2025 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary grant program applications are due February 24, 2026. The HDC JPA will seek funding for the PA&ED Phase of the HDC HSR Project.

At the CA State level, the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) is anticipated to be released in early 2026 with funding awards in Fall 2026. The HDC JPA will seek funding through the CA TIRCP program for PA&ED Phase.

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

- September 2025: CHSRA assumes responsibility as NEPA lead agency for the HDC Intercity Rail Project
- May 2025: HDC JPA Board approves, with Metro Board concurrence, the FY2025-26 budget allocating \$11,937,350 to proceed with HDC JPA HSR Project development activities including seeking NEPA environmental approvals.
- 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.
- 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 JPA Executive Director Report – Regular Calendar Item 2 Attachment A

Financial and Business Advisory Support Quarterly Update October – December 2025

- Consultant team under contract as of June 2024
- 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 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 additional support services
 - **DBE Monitoring and Compliance** – establish processes and reporting mechanisms for ensuring DBE goal compliance

Significant activities/accomplishments for the quarter:

- Provided ongoing support to HDC JPA leadership
- Maintained and updated budget and financial reporting tool
- Continued development of financial plan, including identification of potential funding/financing sources, assessment of federal policy changes and engagement with potential private sector partners
- Preparing grant application and Letter of Intent (LOI) request for Federal State Partnership program for submission in early 2026. Key activities include:
 - Development of scope
 - Development of budget and matching ratios
 - Drafting of narrative and associated materials
 - Development of qualitative benefit cost analysis
 - Development of stakeholder engagement strategy and letters of support
 - Development of compliance matrix
 - Coordination with Brightline West (BLW)

- Developing federal BUILD grant application for submission in February 2026
- Identified, tracked and supported HDC JPA leadership on state legislative priorities
- Supported HDC JPA leadership in engagement with California State Transportation Agency and Caltrans, including in federal reauthorization working group
- Supported HDC JPA leadership in engagement with US High Speed Rail Association, California Transit Association
- Developed project summary materials for use with stakeholders
- 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 and California Environmental Quality Act applicability
- Supported HDC JPA leadership in planning for and engaging with Federal Railroad Administration, including for advancement within the Corridor Identification and Development program.
- Supported HDC JPA in coordination with LA Metro and LA County Public Works
- Assessing implications to HDC project of new Trump Administration criteria and guidance on Federal State Partnership and other grant programs
- Assessment of USDOT interim final rule on Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification/participation and how other agencies are addressing, for implications to HDC program; continue to review and assess potential impacts
- Evaluating/developing options for advancing and optimizing Measure M construction funds
- Coordinated with EDS consultant on regular basis on broad range of issues
- Initiated development of business case analysis for integration/interoperability with BLW and CHSR systems
- Supported HDC JPA leadership in meetings with CHSRA on potential services and coordination

Key upcoming activities include:

- Continued activities in above-mentioned areas
- Advancement of financial 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 development of the Service Development Plan

HDC JPA Executive Director Report – Regular Calendar Item 2 Attachment A

Engineering, Design, & Related Advisory Services (EDS) Quarterly Update October-December 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, grant support, and other advisory resources
- EDS team is led by HDR Engineering, Inc., which includes 23% DBE participation
- Broad range of activities, including:
 - **Engineering and Design Services** - advanced conceptual design to support the project development process and to define the project scope adequately for environmental clearance and to 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:

- Submitted draft conceptual design plan set to HDC JPA that defines the project scope, support environmental clearance, and establish right-of-way requirements
- Completed survey of CEMEX/UPRR bridge overcrossing to support rail crossing design within I-15 median
- Provided engineering input in preparation of Federal-State Partnership (FSP) and BUILD Grant Applications
- Continued project management and contract administration activities
- Facilitated and led Project Development Team (PDT) coordination and meetings
- Researched and updated project reference documents to support conceptual design
- Refined and updated design parameters to guide conceptual engineering activities
- Obtained utility as-builts & record plans and prepared utility base mapping
- Supported Right-of-Way and Real Property Consultant with identification of ROW easements and mapping
- Continued coordination and participation with key State and local agency stakeholders such as Brightline West, CHSRA, Caltrans, corridor cities, and LA County
- Provided ongoing support to HDC JPA leadership
- Defined the EDS scope and budget for the next fiscal year to support obtaining the project Record of Decision (ROD)

Key upcoming activities:

- Continue activities in above-mentioned areas
- Submit draft conceptual design plans to CHSRA in conjunction with NEPA re-evaluation documentation
- Advance conceptual design plan set and cost estimates encompassing mainline tracks, local roadway connectivity, station integration, and grade separations
- Develop conceptual Caltrans Geometric Approval Drawings for I-15 improvements
- Advance conceptual right-of-way plans and tabulated right-of-way requirements
- Update utility mapping and conflict determination
- Continue 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 and prepare materials for upcoming public outreach events
- Support preparation of grant application(s) for new federal funding opportunities, as required