



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

**MEETING AGENDA**

**Thursday, April 9, 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:**

**JOIN Microsoft Teams meeting :**

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/28110321919891?p=1BHTMT7Go3kVWlgviA>

**Meeting ID: 281 103 219 198 91 Passcode: VN9Rn9se**

**TELECONFERENCE AVAILABLE AT THESE ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS**

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

**HDC JPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS**

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

**HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER ALTERNATES**

Mr. Richard Loa, Council Member, 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](mailto: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.*

**CC-1. HDC JPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES/RECAP OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Recommended Action:** Approve January 15, 2026, HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom webinar format.

**HDC JPA BOARD REGULAR CALENDAR**

**RC-1. HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 BUDGET**

**Recommended Action:**

- A. Approve High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget of \$10,838,470. Attachment A – HDC JPA Proposed FY26-27 Budget and HDC JPA FY25-26 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.

**RC-2. 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 \$987,000 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, 2026, to June 30, 2027, pending funding of the FY2026-2027 budget.
- B. Authorize the Chair, Executive Director, and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary contracts.

**RC-3. HDC JPA CONTRACT AMENDMENT 12 WITH TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS**

**Recommended Action:**

- A. Approve the Transportation Solutions Contract Amendment 12, including subcontractors, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,775,970 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, 2026, to June 30, 2027, pending funding in the FY2026-2027 budget.
- B. Authorize the Executive Director and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary contracts.

**RC-4. HDC JPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – *HDC JPA Executive Director***

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

**RC-5. HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**RC-6. ADJOURNMENT. Next HDC JPA Board of Directors Meeting is July 9, 2026, 2pm/virtual**



**AGENDA REPORT – CONSENT ITEM 1**  
**High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency**

Date: April 9, 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 January 15, 2026, HDC JPA Board Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom webinar format.

**1. January 15, 2026 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, Vice Chair, Mayor, City of Victorville

Gabriel Reyes, Mayor, City of Adelanto

Lauren Hughes Leslie, Council Member, City of Lancaster

Eric Ohlsen, Council Member, 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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Chair Barger**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – Perry Goldberg**

**CC-1 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.

**Approved Consent Calendar Item 1 by Motion by Director Ohlsen, second by Director Reyes**

EB	GR	LHL	EO	AN		
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		

## 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. 2:34pm ADJOURNMENT. Next HDC JPA Board of Directors Meeting is April 9, 2026, 2pm**



## **AGENDA REPORT – Regular Calendar Item 1**

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

Date: April 9, 2026

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

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

**Subject: High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget**

#### **Recommended Action:**

- A. Approve High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget of \$10,838,470. Attachment A – HDC JPA Proposed FY26-27 Budget and HDC JPA FY25-26 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 2026-2027 Budget/Background:**

The proposed FY27 budget reflects the planning responsibilities that HDC JPA seeks to complete federal environmental approvals (National Environmental Policy Act/Record of Decision)(NEPA/ROD) and the Service Development Plan while advancing design engineering and ROW planning activities

The proposed HDC JPA FY27 budget is a “planning-first” budget that aims to facilitate two key project planning milestones:

1. Obtaining NEPA environmental federal approvals to receive a ROD
  2. Submission of the final Service Development Plan and Financial Plan to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
- In September 2025, the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) became the lead federal agency for the High Desert Corridor Intercity High Speed Rail Project for the federal NEPA Reevaluation Work. The FY27 budget reflects the workplan costs that the CHSRA staff will provide.
  - Extend the contract for one year with Transportation Solutions to complete the environmental clearance process to achieve a ROD and complete the petition filed with the Surface Transportation Board for interoperability with other high-speed rail systems.

Contract extension for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 for a not to exceed cost of \$1,775,970.

- Service Development Plan (SDP) is budgeted at \$2,410,000 for FY27. 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. SDP efforts are to be undertaken by existing HDC contractors with similar scope of work, with support from Metro. The HDC JPA will seek a federal grant for the completion of the SDP. Grant funds are anticipated to be awarded in 2026.
- 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, 2026 to June 30, 2027 for a not to exceed amount of \$987,000.
- 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 FY27, 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.
- 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 FY27 in the amount of \$2,219,000. The Engineering, Design, and related Advisory Services (EDS) firm would continue to support HDC JPA Executive Management with delivering engineering and design services that will be necessary during FY27 to advance the project development process. This work includes conducting advanced conceptual planning and engineering work that includes the following tasks: 1) Advance conceptual engineering work to define the full project scope and support the Environmental Clearance Team. 2) Engineering design and operations modeling to be conducted in support of the Service Development Plan. 3) Conceptual engineering work to integrate the HDC JPA High Speed Rail Project with California High Speed Rail at the Palmdale Station and with Brightline West at Victor Valley Station. 4) Define system interoperability/interface design parameters to integrate with California High Speed Rail and Brightline West systems and operations. 5) Coordinate with the California High Speed Rail Authority, Federal Railroad Administration, Caltrans, and other State and local agencies. 6) Coordinate with other rail operators including Brightline West, SCRRRA, and Union Pacific. 7) Advance project approval process with Caltrans for impacts on the State Highway System. 8) Support ROW acquisition planning work effort. 9)

Support grant applications and grant agreement compliance. 10) Provide project management, scheduling and control, risk analysis, and cost estimating functions, as well as other related support services. Funding for this task will be partially funded by the \$8M 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 \$539,000 from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.
- 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.
- The HDC JPA conducted an audit with Metro on Proposition C 25% and Measure M for fiscal years 2021-2025. The final audit verified that records are in accordance with acceptable accounting principles and there were no instances of noncompliance. Link to final audit report: [www.highdesertcorridor.org](http://www.highdesertcorridor.org)
- The HDC JPA FY2024-2025 annual audit verified that records are in accordance with acceptable accounting principles and there were no instances of noncompliance. Link to final audit report: [www.highdesertcorridor.org](http://www.highdesertcorridor.org)



**HIGH DESERT  
CORRIDOR**  
JOINT POWERS AGENCY

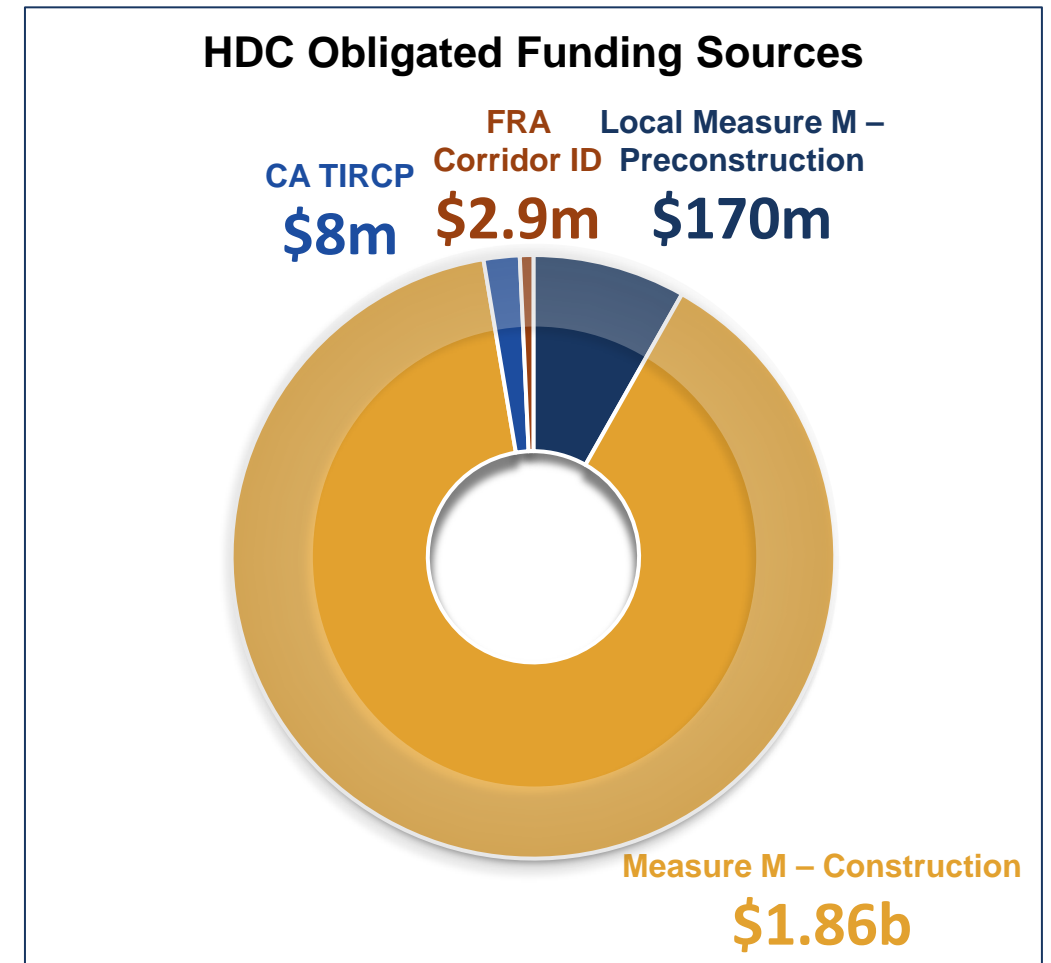
# HDC JPA April 9, 2026 Board Agenda Item 1 Proposed FY27 Budget Overview

# Secured over \$2B in Local, CA State, and Federal funding for the HDC Intercity High-Speed Rail Project

**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; \$145 million remaining (December 2025)  
Funds available for capital construction: **\$1.86 billion** (available in out years)

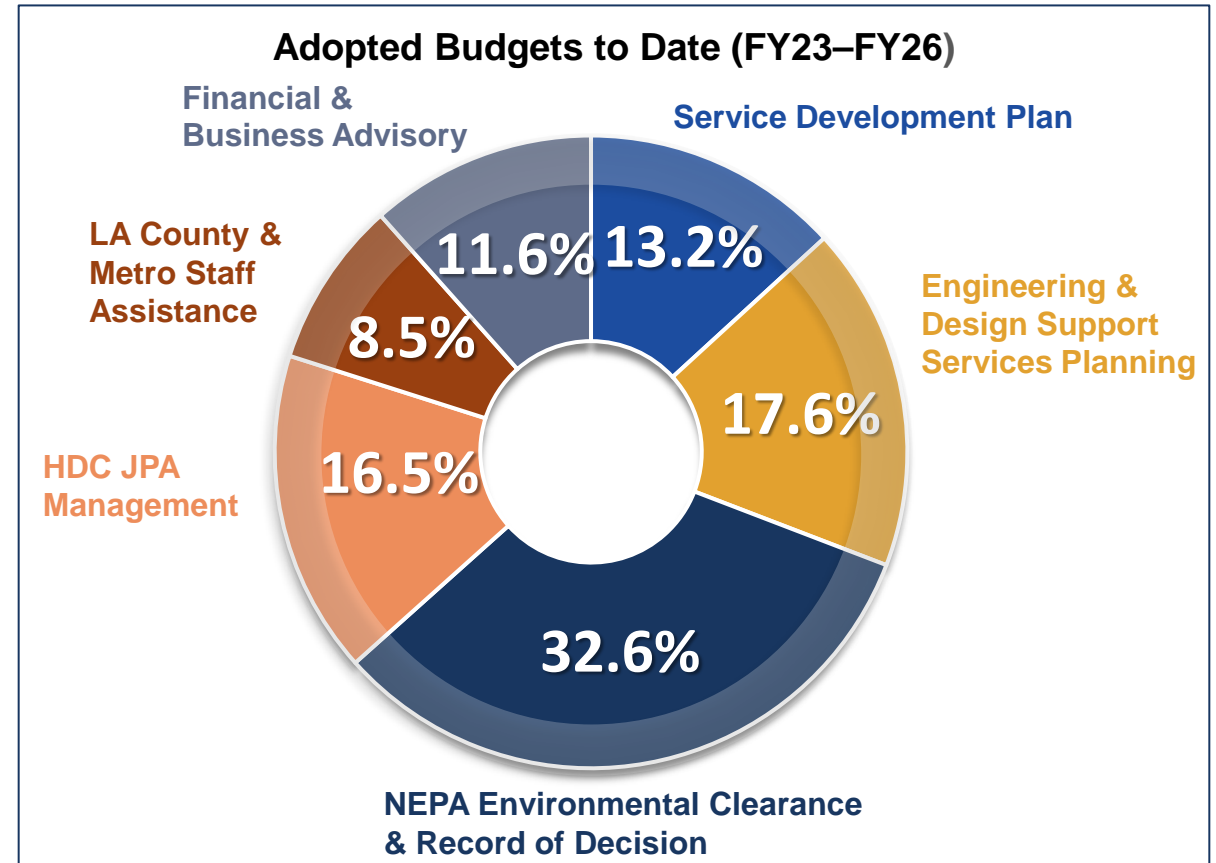
**State** - In 2023, CalSTA awarded \$8 million TIRCP funds for predevelopment-related design engineering expenditures, leverage other funds. \$16.5M Master Grant Agreement including Measure M match.

**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 (Completed)  
\$2.4 million for Corridor ID Step 2 (Pending FRA final approval)  
HDC JPA seeks to leverage existing funds to advance the project to construction

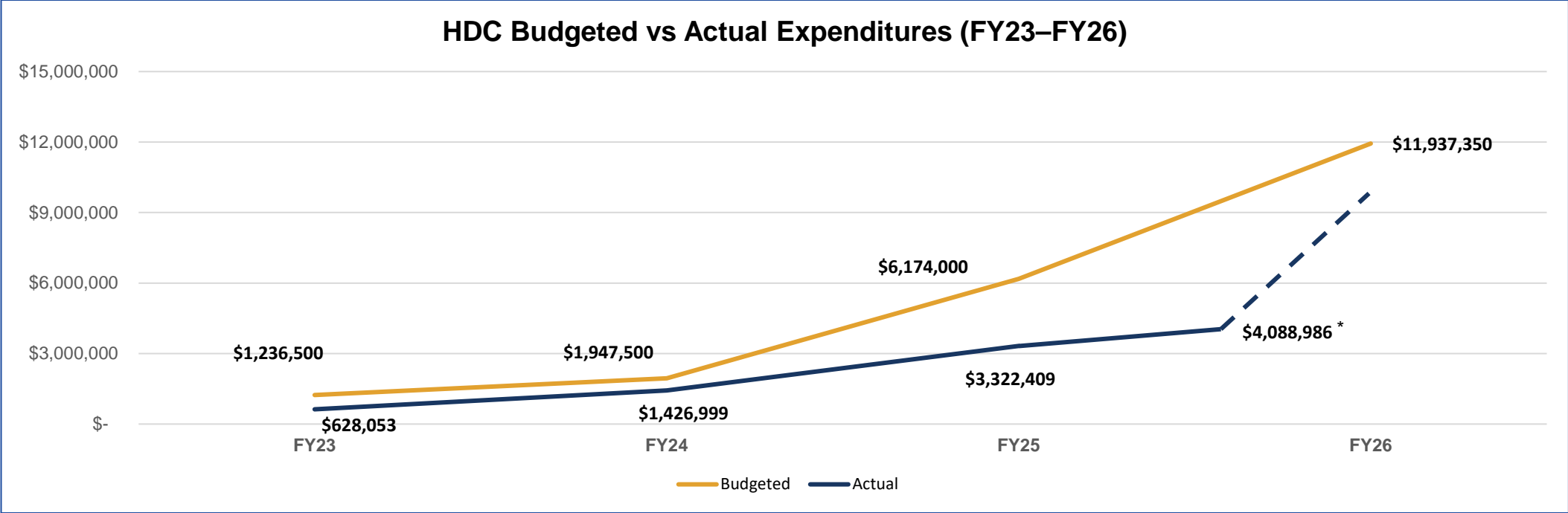


# HDC JPA Budgets to Date (FY23–FY26)

- In recent years, 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 to date 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 and pursuing Federal FSP and BUILD 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 and Engineering and Design Support Services (EDS) Teams to initiate technical work
  - Developed a Sources and Uses Financial Budget and Model tool
  - Completed Step 1 of the Corridor ID Program Service Development Plan
  - Completed the LA Metro FY21–FY25 Measure M/Prop C Audit



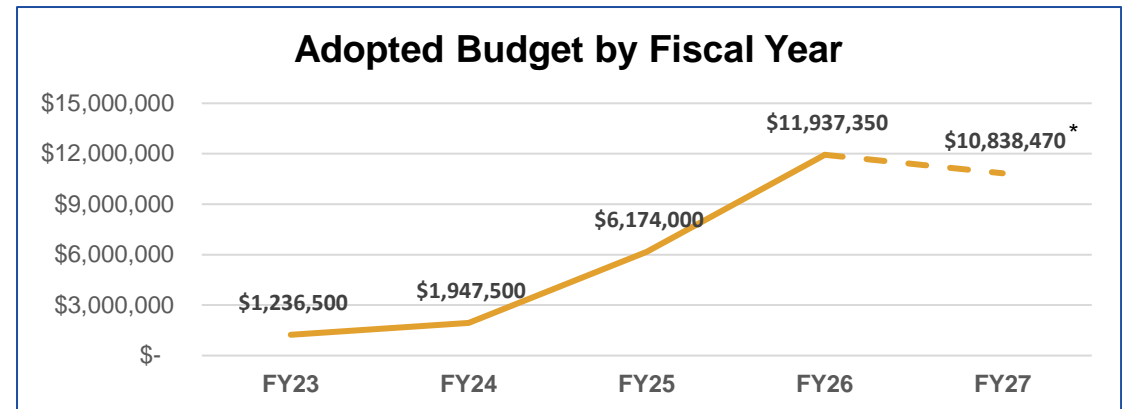
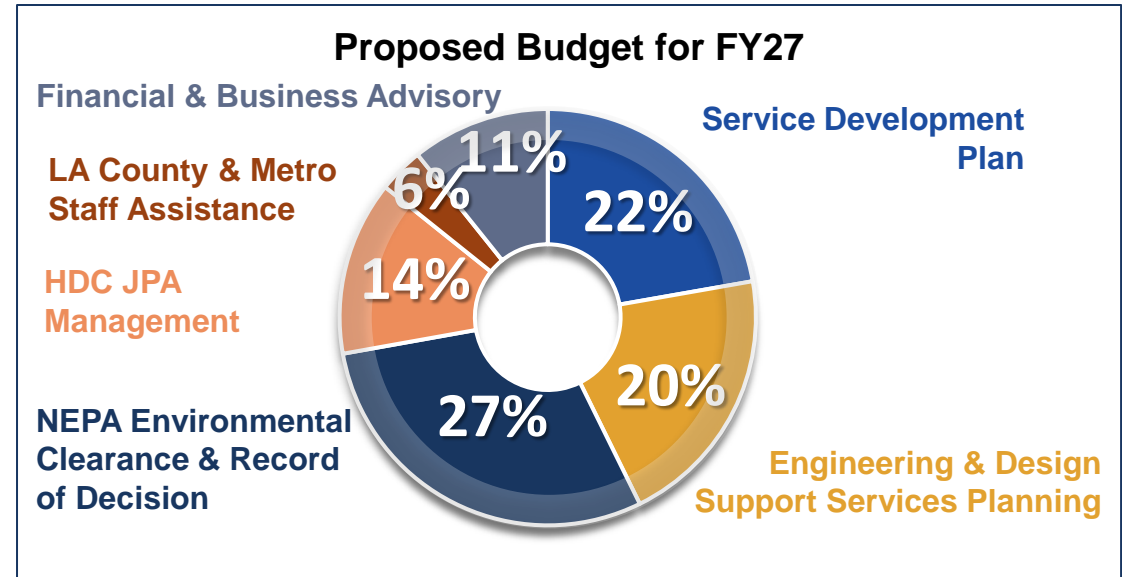
# HDC JPA Budgeted vs Actual Expenditures to Date (FY23–FY26)



\* FY26 figure reflects expenditure data through March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

# The proposed HDC JPA “Planning First” FY27 budget continues to prioritize NEPA clearance and SDP completion

- The proposed FY27 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 FY27 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 FY27 budget also includes:
  - Continuation of advanced conceptual planning and engineering/design work under the EDS contract
  - Development and implementation of a right-of-way program and acquisition plan
  - Preparation of a Project Delivery/PPP/Concessionaire RFQ/RFP to provide the JPA the opportunity to gauge private sector interest in the high-speed rail project
  - Continued development of the HDC Financial Plan



\* Proposed

**April 9, 2026 Board Regular Calendar Item 1 -- Attachment A**

**High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency**

**Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 with FY26 Adopted Budget Comparison**

	<b>HDC JPA Budget Description</b>	<b>Proposed FY27 Amount</b>	<b>Adopted FY26 Amount</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) staff support for 1) NEPA Reevaluation Work and 2) Right of Way Acquisition Planning:</b> Provide funding for California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) staff support to conduct:</p> <p>1) 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 FY27 is based on workplan that CHSRA provided, which is budgeted for fiscal year 2027. (\$1,050,000)</p> <p>2) Right of Way Acquisition Planning activities to support the environmental clearance work and engineering design services work that is required for determining the land area that will be required for the project. To do this effectively it will be required for the HDC JPA to adopt policies and develop a milestone schedule when the diferent phases of the acquisition process will take place. (\$140,000)</p>	\$1,190,000	\$1,940,000
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Re-evaluate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) &amp; Record of Decision (ROD):</b> Tasks for FY27:</p> <p>1) Complete the NEPA Re-evaluation/Re-validation and Record of Decision (ROD) with Final Review by the FRA NEPA designation entity CHSRA. -Address Section 106 and NEPA Re-evaluation comments, provide revised version for CHSRA final review. Prepare final version of NEPA Re-evaluation and prepare a ROD for CHSRA final approval. - Conclude Section 7 consultation and provide necessary documentation as requested by US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service (USFWS) and CHSRA</p> <p>2) Conclude Surface Transportation Board (STB) Petition Approval process.</p> <p>3) Provide right of way planning and consulting services</p> <p>4) Initiate Government Property Owner Inter-Agency Agreements</p> <p>Contractors: Transportation Solutions: \$148,495 Epic Land Solutions, Inc.: \$182,475 Circlepoint: \$945,000 Venable LLP: \$250,000 Jacobs: \$100,000 Arrellano Associates \$150,000</p>	\$1,775,970	\$2,585,000

**April 9, 2026 Board Regular Calendar Item 1 -- Attachment A**  
**High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency**  
**Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 with FY26 Adopted Budget Comparison**

	<b>HDC JPA Budget Description</b>	<b>Proposed FY27 Amount</b>	<b>Adopted FY26 Amount</b>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Service Development Plan (SDP) Update:</b> Metro will continue as lead on the HDC Service Development Plan (SDP) that will be submitted to FRA for their consideration in FY27. 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. SDP efforts to be undertaken by existing HDC contractors with similar scope of work, with support from Metro.</p> <p>Engineering Design and Related Advisory Services (HDR/Subs): \$1,520,000            Financial Advisory Services Contractor (Infrastrategies/Subs): \$525,000            Metro: \$101,000            AVS: \$264,000</p>	\$2,410,000	\$2,310,000
<b>4</b>	<p><b>HDC JPA Management:</b> Oversee agency management including technical analysis, grant applications, budgetary activities, equity focused planning, administration, engineering, right-of-way planning, stakeholder engagement and communications. For FY27, 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, the HDC JPA requires additional staffing to support the increasing complexity, expertise, and level of effort.</p> <p>Contractors:            AVS Consulting, Inc.: \$344,500            ERCL Consulting LLC: \$255,500            ROW Director and HDC As-Needed Staff Support: \$387,000</p>	\$987,000	\$824,510
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Financial Advisory Services:</b> Conduct ongoing financial planning &amp; analysis, modeling, and structural management analysis to support project development into the fiscal year 2027 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, and maintain and update the HDC Financial Dashboard on an ongoing basis.</p>	\$1,165,000	\$1,165,000

**April 9, 2026 Board Regular Calendar Item 1 -- Attachment A**

**High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency**

**Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 with FY26 Adopted Budget Comparison**

	<b>HDC JPA Budget Description</b>	<b>Proposed FY27 Amount</b>	<b>Adopted FY26 Amount</b>
6	<p><b>Engineering Design and Related Advisory Services (EDS):</b> The Engineering, Design, and related Advisory Services (EDS) firm would continue to support HDC JPA Executive Management with delivering engineering and design services that will be necessary during FY27 to advance the project development process. This work includes conducting advanced conceptual planning and engineering work that includes the following tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Advance conceptual engineering work to define the full project scope and support the Environmental Clearance Team</li> <li>2) Engineering design and operations modeling to be conducted in support of the Service Development Plan</li> <li>3) Conceptual engineering work to integrate the HDC JPA High Speed Rail Project with California High Speed Rail at the Palmdale Station and with Brightline West at the Victor Valley Station</li> <li>4) Define system interoperability/interface design parameters to integrate with California High Speed Rail and Brightline West systems and operations</li> <li>5) Coordinate with the California High Speed Rail Authority, Federal Railroad Administration, Caltrans, and other State and local agencies</li> <li>6) Coordinate with other rail operators including Brightline West, SCRRRA, and Union Pacific</li> <li>7) Advance project approval process with Caltrans for impacts on the State Highway System</li> <li>8) Support ROW acquisition planning work effort</li> <li>9) Support grant applications and grant agreement compliance</li> <li>10) Provide project management, scheduling and control, risk analysis, and cost estimating functions, as well as other related support services.</li> </ol> <p>Funding for this task will be partially funded by the \$16.5 million TIRCP grant funding allocated to HDC JPA.</p> <p>Optional tasks are estimated at \$698,000 and is not included in the FY27 budget. A budget amendment will be requested if they are deemed necessary to advance in FY27.</p>	\$2,219,000	\$2,480,000

**April 9, 2026 Board Regular Calendar Item 1 -- Attachment A**  
**High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency**  
**Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 with FY26 Adopted Budget Comparison**

	<b>HDC JPA Budget Description</b>	<b>Proposed FY27 Amount</b>	<b>Adopted FY26 Amount</b>
7	<p><b>County of Los Angeles Treasury, Auditor-Controller, Legal Counsel, Public Works Staff Support:</b> Monthly Support for Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable functions, Legal Counsel Support, Budget Oversight, Board Meetings staffing, Agency Oversight &amp; Compliance Items, Procurement /Contract Services plus Request for Proposals preparation and Oversight, and contract execution. County will provide procurement services for ROW Real Estate Support Services and Project Delivery/PPP/Concessionaire. The ROW consultant would support HDC JPA Executive Management with developing the ROW acquisition process and performing ROW administration work in preparation for ROW acquisition. Project Delivery/PPP/Concessionaire RFQ/RFP would provide the JPA the opportunity to gauge private sector interest in the high-speed rail project.</p> <p><b>Public Works Procurement/Vendor Services:</b> \$300,000 - 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 advancing procurement contracts in ROW Real Estate Support Services and Project Delivery/PPP/Concessionaire as well as ongoing contract support for existing professional services contracts such as environmental, architectural and engineering, and financial and business advisory contracts. For FY27, County's services includes supporting the procurement processes and contract administration during the fiscal year.</p> <p><b>Controller:</b> \$129,000 - 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><b>Legal Counsel:</b> \$110,000 - Monthly Support for legal counsel to review agency contracts, memorandum of understanding (MOU), funding agreements, Board of Director reports, Agency Regulatory Compliance, Grant Applications &amp; Compliance, Procurement Documents: Request for Proposals process, contractual agreements, contract execution, and other related services.</p>	\$539,000	\$270,000
8	<p><b>LA Metro Staff Support:</b> 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>	\$35,000	\$150,000
9	<p><b>Stakeholder and Public Engagement and Planning Assistance:</b> Provide communications, community engagement, and other related planning assistance to support the Agency communications and planning functions.</p>	\$90,000	\$90,000
10	<p><b>Audit Services: County of Los Angeles Audit Services</b></p>	\$35,000	\$30,000
11	<p><b>LA Metro Funding Agreement Audit Services. Completed FY2021-2025 Metro Audit in FY26.</b></p>	\$0	\$25,340
12	<p><b>Multi-Media Promotion, Materials &amp; Advertising. US HSR Association yearly membership. California Transit Association yearly membership</b></p>	\$45,000	\$45,000

**April 9, 2026 Board Regular Calendar Item 1 -- Attachment A**  
**High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency**  
**Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 with FY26 Adopted Budget Comparison**

	<b>HDC JPA Budget Description</b>	<b>Proposed FY27 Amount</b>	<b>Adopted FY26 Amount</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>IT Support, Software &amp; Website Mgmt.</b>	\$22,500	\$22,500
<b>14</b>	<b>HDC Office: lease, utilities, office equipment, furnitue, supplies, insurance</b>	\$325,000	\$0
<b>15</b>	<b>Total Adopted FY26 Budget &amp; Proposed FY27 Budget</b>	<b>\$10,838,470</b>	<b>\$11,937,350</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Measure M Funds Requested for FY26 Budget &amp; FY27 Budget</b>	<b>\$10,838,470</b>	<b>\$11,937,350</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Less: Reserve Fund-Cash on Hand as of March 31, 2026</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>	-
<b>18</b>	<b>Measure M Funds Requested for FY27 Budget</b>	<b>\$9,338,470</b>	-



## **AGENDA REPORT – Regular Calendar Item 2**

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

Date: April 9, 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 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 \$987,000 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, 2026, to June 30, 2027, pending funding of the FY2026-2027 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 2025, the HDC Board extended the contract performance period with no hourly rate increase from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, for a total contract value of \$ 824,510.

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 FY27, 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, 2026, to June 30, 2027, for a not to exceed amount of \$987,000.

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, July 1, 2024, July 1, 2025.

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, 2026, to June 30, 2027, for a not-to-exceed annual amount of \$987,000. 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 – Regular Calendar Item 3

### High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: April 9, 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 CONTRACT AMENDMENT 12 WITH TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS**

#### **Recommended Action:**

- A. Approve the Transportation Solutions Contract Amendment 12, including subcontractors, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$ 1,775,970 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, 2026, to June 30, 2027, pending funding in the FY2026-2027 adopted budget.
- B. Authorize the Executive Director and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary contracts

#### **Background:**

This Amendment No. 12 ("Amendment") to the Professional Services Agreement for Rail Connector Implementation Study, effective as of July 1, 2026, 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, 2025, the HDC JPA entered Amendment No. 11 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.

#### **Proposed Amendment**

##### **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:
- Complete the NEPA Re-evaluation/Re-validation and Record of Decision (ROD) with Final Review by the FRA NEPA designation entity CHSRA.
- Address Section 106 and NEPA Re-evaluation comments, provide revised version for CHSRA final review. Prepare final version of NEPA Re-evaluation and prepare a ROD for CHSRA final approval.
- Conclude Section 7 consultation and provide necessary documentation as requested by US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and CHSRA
- Conclude Surface Transportation Board (STB) Petition Approval process.
- Provide right of way planning and consulting services
- Initiate Government Property Owner Inter-Agency Agreements
- 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.
- Provide outreach support for public meetings and communication with the general public

II. Compensation and Invoicing

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

The method of payment for the expanded Scope of Work set forth in this Amendment will be based on a total sum, subject to availability and receipt of funding, not to exceed \$ 1,775,970.

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 12 not to exceed \$1,775,970, budget breakdown is as follows:

Contractors:

Transportation Solutions: \$148,495

Epic Land Solutions, Inc.: \$182,475

Circlepoint: \$945,000

Venable LLP: \$250,000

Jacobs: \$100,000

Arrellano Associates \$150,000. 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 – Regular Calendar Item 4

### High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: April 9, 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 FY26 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 has submitted federal grant applications in February 2026 and is preparing to submit a state grant funding application in May 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. 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 anticipated in late 2026/early 2027. The HDC JPA is working closely with CHSRA on the NEPA Re-Evaluation process through ongoing submittals and reviews with monthly progress meetings.

The HDC JPA will host community meetings in-person and virtually to provide project updates to the public regarding the environmental status and Service Development Plan. Meetings are planned for the following dates and locations with more information to follow as event details are finalized.

Community Meeting #1 – Wednesday, June 3, 2026, 6pm-8pm, Victorville

Community Meeting #2 – Monday, June 8, 2026, 6pm-8pm, Palmdale

Community Meeting #3 – Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 6pm-8pm, Virtual

### 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 Final Performance Report and close-out report was submitted to FRA in January 2026. HDC JPA awaits further direction from the FRA on the Stage 2 grant. A targeted NOFO for the Stage 2 grant is anticipated for release in Spring 2026.

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 February 2026, the HDC JPA submitted federal funding grant applications for the HDC HSR Project and is currently preparing an application for the state funding grant.

The Department of Transportation (US DOT), National Railroad Partnership Program/Federal State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program (FSP) application was submitted on February 6, 2026. The HDC JPA submitted 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 was submitted on 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) Call for Projects was released in February 2026 with applications due on May 18, 2026 and funding awards in Fall 2026. The HDC JPA will seek funding through the CA TIRCP program for PS&E, ROW, and Construction Phases.

##### 5. California High Speed Rail Authority 2026 Business Plan

On February 28, 2026, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) released the 2026 Draft Business Plan (Draft Plan), with a 60-day comment period. The link to the Draft Plan: <https://hsr.ca.gov/communications-outreach/reports/business-plans/2026-business-plan/>

By law, the CHSRA is required to submit a Business Plan every other year, outlining program updates, updated estimates and other information sought by the Legislature. Along with noting the construction progress in the Central Valley, a key update this year is the dedication of \$1B in annual funding through 2045 via the extended Cap and Invest Program.

With this new extended funding, the CHSRA lays out plans to complete the Central Valley section currently under construction and proposes potential new initiatives.

Of particular interest to the HDC JPA is the discussion of “**Early Investment in the Los Angeles Basin**” which focuses on extending the high-speed rail system south from the Central Valley to Palmdale, where it would tie to the High Desert Corridor Intercity High Speed Rail Project and connect to improved Metrolink Antelope Valley Line (AVL) service.

This is illustrated in Exhibit 2.3 below.

**Exhibit 2.3: San Francisco - Los Angeles / Anaheim (Phase 1) Service Map**

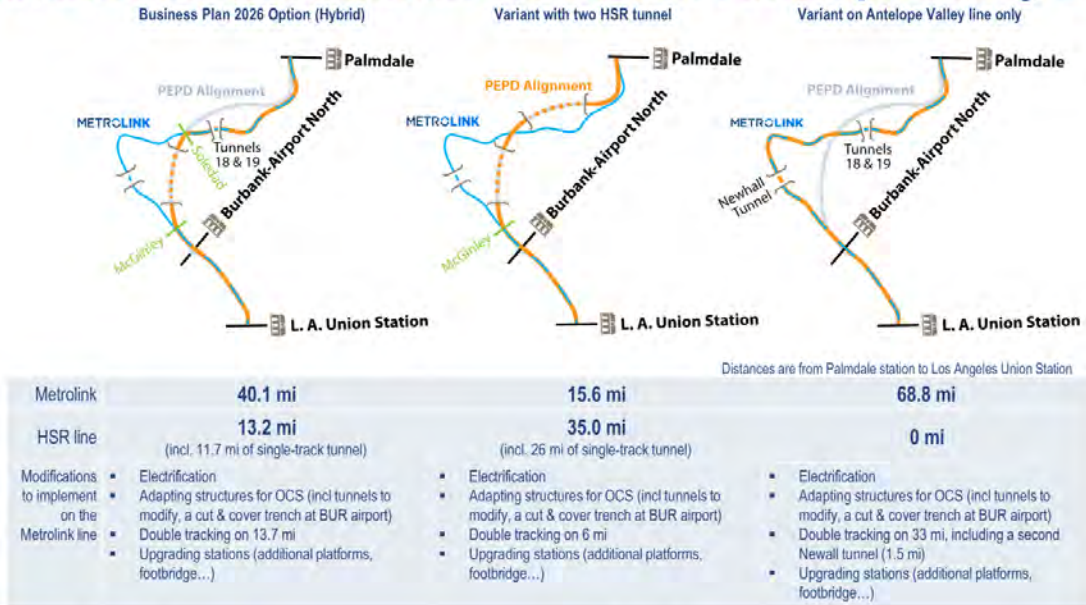


Extending the CHSRA system to Palmdale would have major implications directly for the HDC, which would provide the direct connection between HSR service at Palmdale and the Brightline West system at Victor Valley.

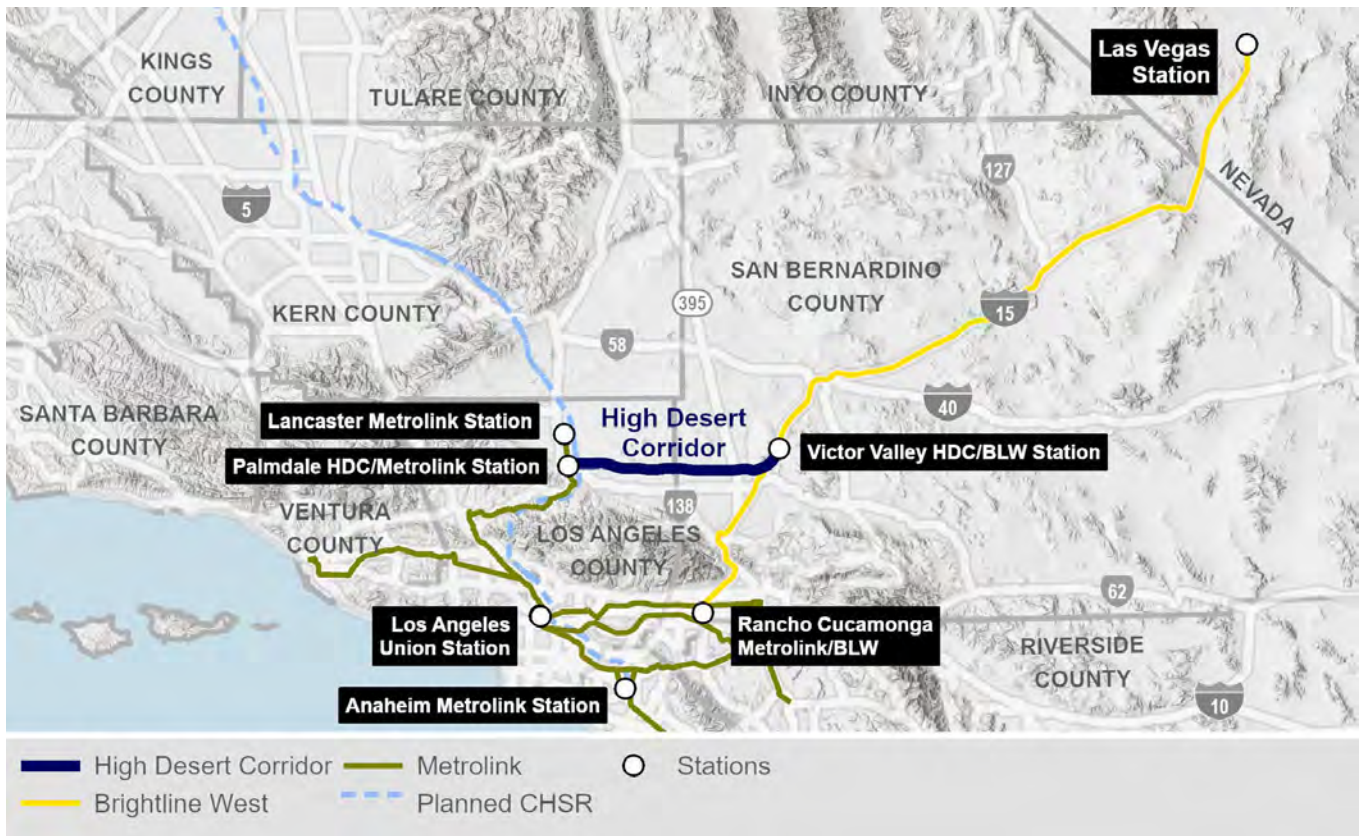
The proposed investment in the AVL would parallel the investment the CHSRA made in the Caltrain system on the San Francisco Peninsula, which has resulted in an electrified commuter system in the near term (with significant ridership increases) that eventually will be incorporated into the larger high-speed rail system.

The focus on the Antelope Valley Line improvements also aligns with the key strategic goal of the North Los Angeles County Transportation Coalition Joint Powers Authority (NCTC JPA).

# Variants for the Palmdale–Burbank / Antelope Valley Line



## 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

- February 2026 – Metro finalizes audit of HDC on Proposition C 25% and Measure M for fiscal years 2021-2025, which verify records to be in accordance with acceptable accounting principles and no instances of noncompliance. Link to final audit report can be found at the HDC website <https://highdesertcorridor.org/documents/#financial-documents>
- 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 4 Attachment A

Financial and Business Advisory Support Quarterly Update  
January-March 2026

- 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** – assess organizational needs, develop strategy to ensure ability to implement program and meet evolving needs
  - **Project Development Support** – engagement with key stakeholders, identification of issues and strategies relating to advancement of project
  - **Procurement Support** – assist 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 in support of HDC JPA leadership:

- Prepared and submitted grant application and Letter of Intent (LOI) request for Federal State Partnership program on February 6 and two separate BUILD grant applications on February 24. Key activities included:
  - Development of scope
  - Development of budget and matching ratios
  - Drafting of narrative and associated materials
  - Development of qualitative benefit cost analysis
  - Coordination with EDS and environmental teams
  - Development of stakeholder engagement strategy, including development of letters of support
  - Development of graphics and supporting materials
  - Development of compliance matrix
  - Coordination with Brightline West
  - Support for HDC JPA leadership in uploading applications through federal portals
- Supported HDC JPA in completing a Metro audit of the HDC financials on Proposition C 25% and Measure M funding for fiscal years 2021-2025

## HDC JPA Executive Director Report – Regular Calendar Item 4 Attachment A

- Preparing Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) Cycle 8 grant application, due May 18.
- 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
- Ongoing assessment of optimizing Measure M construction funds
- Continued coordination with Service Development Plan update team
- Assessment of potential CHSRA on services and coordination
- Assessment of CHSRA interoperability and ridership information
- Continued assessment of HDC JPA capacity and organizational needs related to ROW acquisition post-NEPA approval
- Developing materials for preparation and presentation of HDC JPA budget
- Engagement with Caltrans for access to ROW and development of MOU/ cooperative agreements
- Assessing CHSRA draft Business Plan and implications for HDC
- Monitored, reported on relevant federal legislative and regulatory issues and events
- issues relating to NEPA process
- Development of summary informational materials for use with stakeholders
- Supported discussions on right of way (ROW) acquisition processes and the laws and rules HDC JPA is operating within that govern these acquisitions,
- Coordinated with EDS consultant on regular basis on broad range of issues
- Ongoing assessment of JPA organizational, procedural and support needs
- Engagement with California State Transportation Agency and Caltrans, including in federal reauthorization working group
- Engagement with US High Speed Rail Association, California Transit Association

### Key upcoming activities include:

- Continued activities in above-mentioned areas
- Preparation and submission of TIRCP grant application
- Advancement of financial plan
- 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 4 Attachment A

### Engineering, Design, & Related Advisory Services (EDS) Quarterly Update January-March 2026

- 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:

- Completed the draft conceptual design plan set that defines the project scope, supports environmental clearance, and establishes initial right-of-way requirements

## HDC JPA Executive Director Report – Regular Calendar Item 4 Attachment A

- Submitted the draft conceptual design plans to CHSRA in conjunction with NEPA re-evaluation documentation; coordinate with CHSRA on the initial phase of the Palmdale Station and viaduct design
- Completed survey control report of CEMEX/UPRR bridge overcrossing to support rail crossing design within I-15 median
- Completed draft technical approach for hydrologic and hydraulic modeling
- Initiated the preparation of rough order of magnitude (ROM) cost estimate and construction schedule
- Provided engineering input in preparation of Federal-State Partnership (FSP) and BUILD Grant Applications
  
- Supported environmental studies through requests for information of technical data
- Continued project management and contract administration activities
- Facilitated and led Project Development Team (PDT) coordination and meetings
- 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

### Key upcoming activities:

- Continue activities in above-mentioned areas
- Continue preparation of rough order of magnitude (ROM) cost estimate and construction schedule
- Develop conceptual Caltrans Geometric Approval Drawings for I-15 improvements
- 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 and state funding opportunities, as required