



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

MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, July 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/260351564524952?p=f7Lz8DHDpo6AjXsUYA>

Meeting ID: 260 351 564 524 952 Passcode: xD3aM3Pi

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 Rm A Victorville, CA 92392	Gabriel Reyes & Daniel Ramos Adelanto City Hall 11600 Air Express Way Adelanto, CA 92301
Lauren Hughes-Leslie Lancaster City Hall 44933 Fern Avenue Conference Room A Lancaster, CA 93534	Eric Ohlsen & Richard Loa Palmdale City Hall 38300 Sierra Hwy 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

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@highdesertcorridor.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 April 9, 2026, HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual Microsoft Teams meeting format.

HDC JPA BOARD REGULAR CALENDAR

RC-1. HDC JPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – *HDC JPA Executive Director*

Recommended Action: *Receive and file report.*

RC-2. HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

RC-3. ADJOURNMENT. Next HDC JPA Board of Directors Meeting is October 8, 2026, 2pm/virtual



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

Date: July 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 Board Meeting Minutes/Recap of Proceedings**

Recommendation Action:

Approve April 9, 2026, HDC JPA Board Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual Microsoft Teams meeting format.

1. **April 9, 2026 HDC JPA CALL TO ORDER – Chair Barger calls virtual Board meeting to order at 2:02pm**
2. **ROLL CALL – Quorum Present, 6 voting members as follows:**

HDC JPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS – present/voting members

Kathryn Barger, Chair, 5th Supervisorial District, Los Angeles County
 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 – None

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.

Approved Consent Calendar Item 1 by Motion by Director Najarian, second by Vice Chair Becerra

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

HDC JPA BOARD REGULAR CALENDAR

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

Approved Regular Calendar Item 1 by Motion by Director Ohlsen, second by Director Najarian

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

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

Approved Regular Calendar Item 2 by Motion by Chair Barger, second by Vice Chair Becerra

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

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

Approved Regular Calendar Item 3 by Motion by Chair Barger, second by Vice Chair Becerra

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

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 2:34PM in Honor of Robert Calix.**

Next HDC JPA Board of Directors Meeting is July 9, 2026, 2pm/virtual



AGENDA REPORT – Regular Calendar Item 1

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: July 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 FY27 Work Program Implementation

On May 28, 2026, the Metro Board of Directors unanimously approved the HDC JPA FY27 Budget Work Program of \$10,838,470 from Measure M funds. HDC staff has been implementing the FY27 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 submitted federal grant applications in February 2026 and state grant funding TIRCP 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 support stakeholder coordination. 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.

3. HDC JPA Hosts Community Meetings

The HDC JPA hosted community meetings in-person and virtually to provide project updates to the public regarding the environmental status and Service Development Plan. The meetings were held at the following dates and locations:

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

The meetings were well attended and together drew over 140 participants. There was good dialogue and questions/comments generated at all three meetings. Key community discussion themes included:

- Project timeline, funding, and delivery
- Rail alignment, station locations, and regional connectivity
- Property acquisition, landowner impacts, and community effects
- Environmental review and project development process
- Project scope, operations, and integration with other transportation systems
- Community benefits, workforce development, local hiring, and economic opportunities

Notification methods included direct mail to 2,762 parcel owners and occupants ¼ from the 54-mile corridor, a digital toolkit, public counter drop-offs at 42 locations, email notifications to more than 1,200 contacts, a LinkedIn campaign, and project website updates that generated nearly 1000 new sign-ups for project information.

A meeting summary and the meeting presentation are contained in Attachment A. Information is also included on the HDC website, www.highdesertcorridor.org

The HDC JPA would like to thank the City of Palmdale and City of Victorville for their support and for hosting the community meetings, resulting in a successful outreach event.

4. HDC JPA Industry and Public Engagement

The HDC JPA is raising the profile of the High Desert Corridor Intercity High Speed Rail Project by engaging in various ways, such as; Conference/speaking events, engaging with Legislators and staff, industry professionals and Labor. The HDC JPA presented at the following:

- American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), Los Angeles, April 15
- California Passenger Rail Summit, Sacramento, April 29-May 1
- US High Speed Rail Conference, Washington DC, May 12-14
- Congressional Members/staff, Federal Railroad Administration, Labor, Washington DC, May 11-15

- CA High Speed Rail Authority Board of Directors Meeting, Sacramento, June 24
- California Transportation Commission, Board of Commissioners meeting, Folsom, June 25
- California Legislator and staff meeting, Sacramento June 23-25
- Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce, Victorville, July 1
- Assembly Inland Empire Caucus Hearing, Victorville, July 17 (upcoming)

5. 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 and accepted by FRA. 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 Summer/Fall 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 the Federal Railroad Administration. To date, HDC SDP has been funded with:

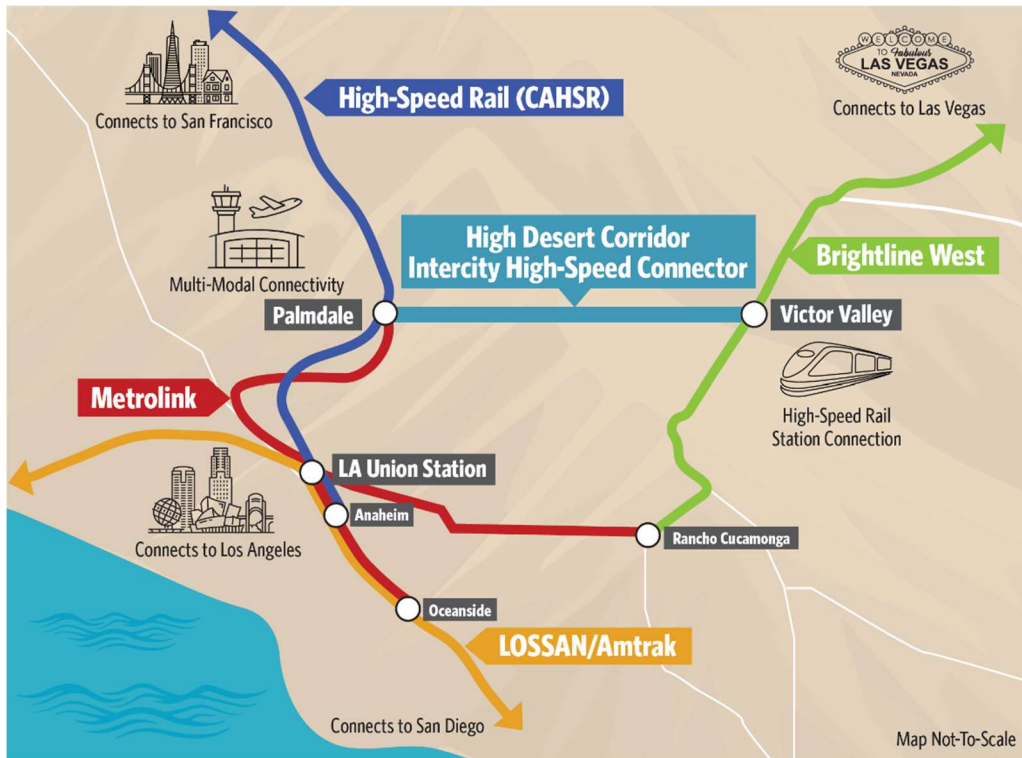
- \$6.0 million of HDC Measure M funds (Local funds). Allocated \$4.0 million in August 2020 and additional \$2 million for SDP Gap Analysis in May 2024.
- \$1.375 million in CalSTA 2018 Transit Intercity Rail Capital Plan State grant funds under the Network Integration category (CA State funds), and
- \$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

6. HDC JPA Submits Federal and State Funding Grant Application

In February 2026, the HDC JPA submitted federal funding grant applications and in May 2026 submitted a state TIRCP grant application for the HDC HSR Project.

Grant	Federal State Partnership (FSP)		US DOT BUILD		CA TIRCP
Tasks / Funding	Victor Valley Integration Planning & Design	Palmdale Integration Planning & Design	Victor Valley Integration Planning & Design	Mainline Segment Planning & Design	HDC HSR Planning, Design, ROW & Victor Valley Construction
Submitted	Feb 6	Feb 6	Feb 24	Feb 24	May 18

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



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 (in descending order)

- May 2026: HDC JPA Board approves, with Metro Board concurrence, the FY2026-27 budget allocating \$10,838,470 to proceed with HDC JPA HSR Project development activities and obtaining NEPA environmental approvals.
- May 2026: HDC JPA submits TIRCP Grant request for the HDC HSR Project
- February 2026: HDC JPA submits Federal State Partnership and BUILD Grant request for the System Integration Projects
- 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: www.highdesertcorridor.org
- 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 July 9 2026 RC 1 Executive Director Report - Attachment A

Outreach Summary June 2026

The High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency conducted outreach activities from May through June to promote a three-part community meeting series. To encourage broad participation, all outreach materials and meeting resources were provided in English and Spanish.

The meetings took place in June and included in-person sessions in Victorville and Palmdale, as well as a virtual meeting via Zoom. Together, the three meetings drew over 140 participants and generated 108 comments and questions.

The following section summarizes meeting participation, key themes, notification methods, and the materials developed to support the outreach effort.

Community Meetings:

Meeting	Date/Time	Location	Attendance	Questions/Comments	Notable Participants
Community Meeting #1	June 3, 2026 6-8pm	Victorville City Hall	42	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Victorville Assemblymember Juan Carrillo, District 39
Community Meeting #2	June 8, 2026 6-8pm	Palmdale Playhouse	18	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Palmdale Assemblymember Juan Carrillo, District 39
Community Meeting #3	June 10, 2026 6-8pm	Virtual Via Zoom	84	84	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board of Supervisors, District 5, County of Los Angeles San Fernando Valley Area, LA Metro City of San Bernardino City of Palmdale Caltrans District 8 Assemblymember Juan Carrillo, District 39 CHSRA San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Key Themes:

Topic	Key Theme
Project Timeline, Funding, and Delivery	Community members sought clarity on project milestones, construction schedules, implementation timelines, service start dates, funding availability, project costs, and the relationship between funding commitments and project advancement. There was strong interest in understanding the project's long-term viability and delivery process.

Topic	Key Theme
Alignment, Stations, and Regional Connectivity	Community members requested information about the proposed rail alignment, station locations, intermediate stops, service planning, and connections to regional transportation networks. Questions frequently focused on integration with Brightline West, California High-Speed Rail, and other transit systems, as well as how the corridor would improve regional mobility and access.
Property, Land Acquisition, and Community Impacts	Community members expressed interest in potential property acquisition, landowner impacts, eminent domain, compensation processes, corridor design features, and effects on surrounding communities. Questions also addressed road closures, emergency access, noise, utility infrastructure, bikeways, grade separations, and overall impacts on mobility and quality of life.
Environmental Review and Project Development Process	Community members sought a better understanding of the environmental review process, project alternatives including the highway component, public participation opportunities, and how previous planning efforts relate to future decision-making and project advancement.
Project Scope, Integration, and Operations	Community members requested clarification regarding the project's overall scope, operational compatibility with other rail systems, station amenities, corridor features, and how the project fits within broader regional transportation planning efforts.
Community Benefits and Economic Opportunities	Community members expressed interest in workforce development, local hiring, youth employment, nonprofit participation, station-area development, and other potential economic and community benefits associated with the project.

Notification Methods:

- Direct mail to 2,762 parcel and occupants ¼ from the corridor and station locations
- Digital toolkit for cities and community groups
- Public counter drop-offs at 42 locations throughout Victorville, Adelanto, Palmdale, and Lancaster
- 5 email notifications reaching a database of over 1,200 contacts, including Board members, cities, government agencies, community-based organizations, and the general public
- Social media campaign (LinkedIn), with over 1,200 followers
- Project website, with nearly 100 new sign-ups for project information within the months of May to June

Collateral Materials:

- Community meeting flyers (English and Spanish)
- Environmental update factsheet (English and Spanish)
- Community meeting presentation (English and Spanish)
- Presentation boards
- HDC rail alignment map



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HDC JPA July 9 2026 RC 1 Executive Director Report - Attachment A

High Desert Corridor Intercity High-Speed Rail Community Meeting

June 2026

Interpretation Services

Interpretation Available

If you wish to hear the meeting in English, please click the “Interpretation” button at the bottom right of your Zoom screen.

If you are joining via the Zoom smartphone app:

- Select your language by clicking "More" or the three dots in the bottom right corner of your screen.
- Select "Language Interpretation", then choose "English" and click "Done".
- If you wish to hear only the interpreters and not the original speakers, be sure to click “Mute Original Audio”.

Interpretación Disponible

Si desea escuchar la interpretación en español por favor haga clic en el botón de "Interpretación" en la parte inferior derecha de su pantalla de Zoom.

Si se está uniendo a través de la aplicación de Zoom en su teléfono:

- Seleccione su idioma haciendo clic en "More" (Más) o en los tres puntos en la esquina inferior derecha de su pantalla.
- Seleccione “Language Interpretation” (Interpretación de idiomas), luego elija "español" y haga clic en “Done” (Listo).
- Si desea escuchar solo a los intérpretes y no a los oradores originales, asegúrese de hacer clic en “Mute Original Audio” (Silenciar audio original).

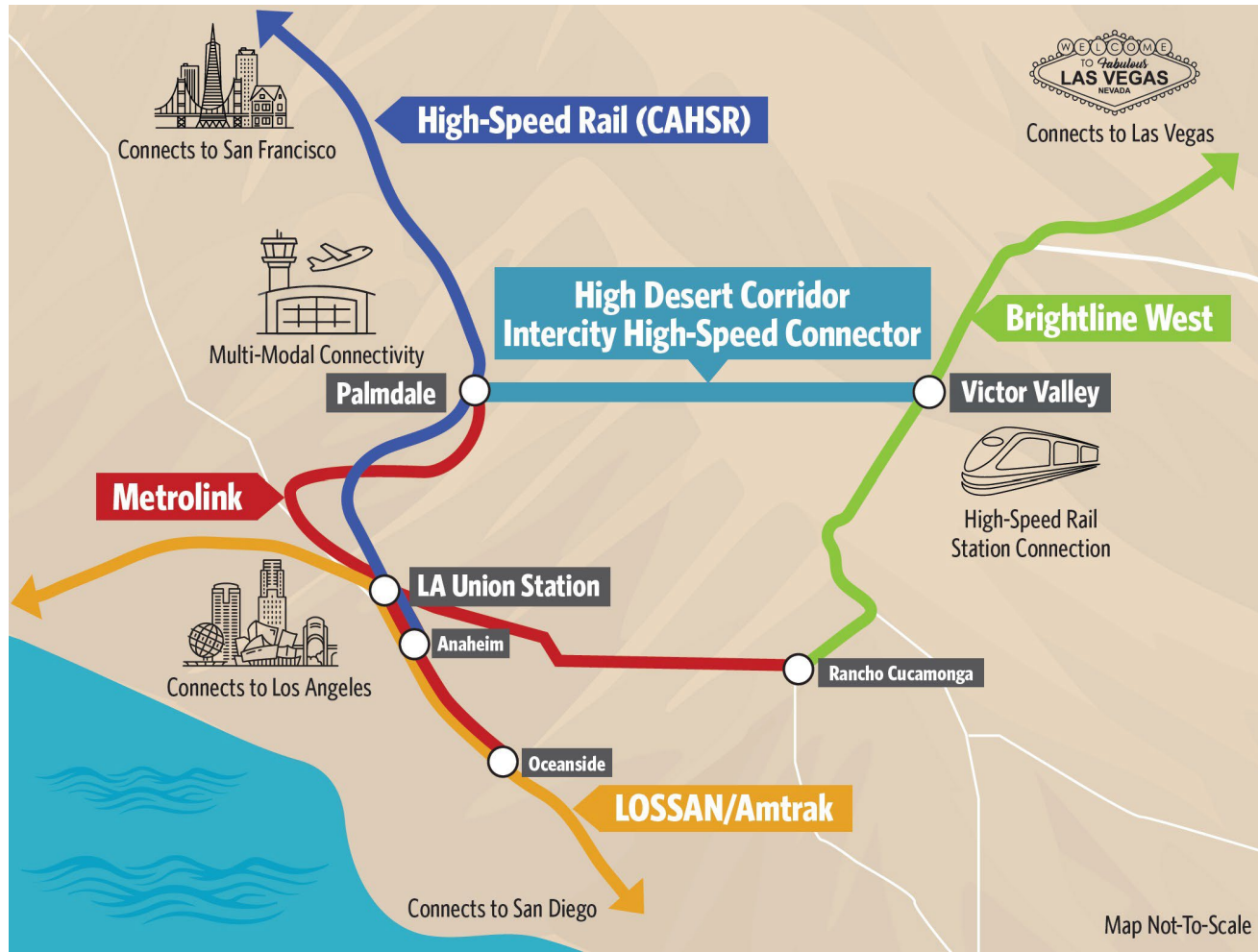
Agenda

- Introduction of Project Team
- Learn What's New and What's Next
- Project Benefits
- Funding
- Next Steps
- Questions & Answers



Learn What's New and What's Next for the High Desert Corridor

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



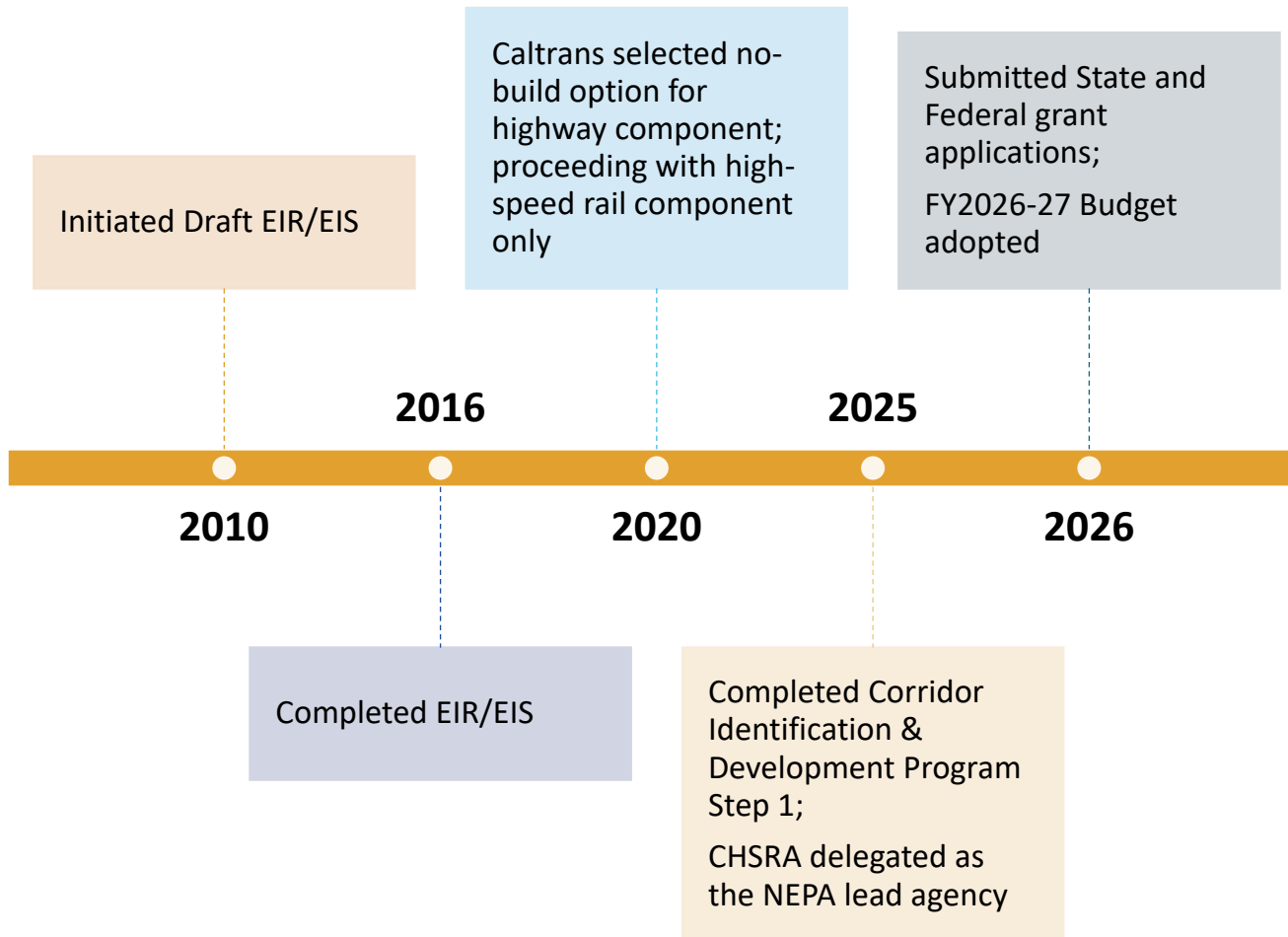
- 54-mile High Speed Intercity Rail Connector Project
- EIR/EIS Completed in 2016
- 8+ year public process, with Federal Railroad Administration as Federal Cooperating Agency
- CHSRA delegated as the NEPA lead agency
- NEPA/Record of Decision approvals anticipated late 2026/early 2027
- Two Environmentally Cleared Stations by:
 - CAHSR, Palmdale, LA County, 2021
 - Brightline West, Victor Valley, San Bernardino County, 2023

High Desert Corridor JPA Governance



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

Project Milestones to Date





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Project Benefits

Project Benefits

Safety – Will improve travel safety and reliability from rural communities to major urban centers in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties.

Economic – Will generate more than \$12 billion in economic activity during development and construction.

Jobs & Housing – Supports job creation and access to affordable housing opportunities within growing communities in Southern California through new business development.

Leveraging Other Major Investments – By tying with Brightline West, expands market and reach, creating greater value.

Environmental & Congestion Relief – The zero-emission high-speed rail technology will reduce vehicle miles travelled, contributing to improved air quality and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Equitable Transportation Connectivity & Mobility Options – Unprecedented investment in historically underserved and underinvested communities in the high desert communities of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties





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Funding

High Desert Corridor HSR Project Funding

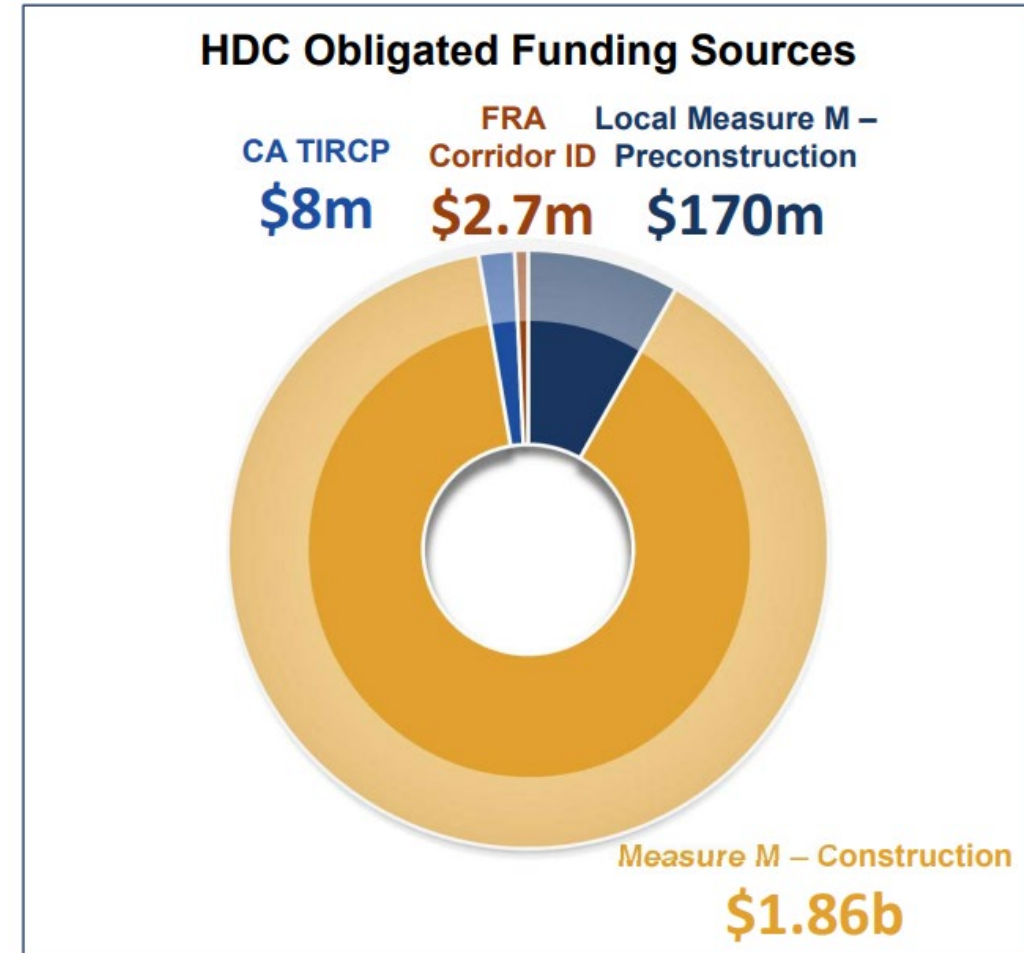
Local - LA County Measure M funds committed by Metro are divided into two allocations per the Measure M Expenditure Plan:

- \$170M in early funds available for predevelopment & ROW activities: \$145 million remaining (December 2025)
- Funds available for capital construction: **\$1.86 billion** (available in 2063-2067)

State - In 2023, CalSTA awarded \$8 million TIRCP funds for predevelopment-related design engineering expenditures, leverage other funds.

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)
- \$2.3 million for Corridor ID Step 2 (Pending FRA final approval)
- HDC JPA seeks to leverage existing funds to advance the project to construction.





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Next Steps

Next Steps

SPRING 2026

- Ongoing NEPA environmental clearance efforts and agency coordination

SUMMER 2026

- Public outreach and community meetings
- Initiation of Service Development Plan

FALL/WINTER 2026/2027

- Project Environmental Approval / Record of Decision (ROD) anticipated

SUMMER 2027

- Completion of Service Development Plan



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Questions & Answers

Follow Us

Arthur Sohikian, Executive Director

Sohikian@highdesertcorridor.org

Elizabeth Lun, Director of Engineering

Lun@highdesertcorridor.org

Follow our progress at www.highdesertcorridor.org



HDC JPA July 9 2026 RC 1 Executive Director Report - Attachment A

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

- Provided engineering input in preparation of Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) Grant Application
- Supported and prepared materials for Community Engagement Meetings held along the corridor
- Updated the draft conceptual design plan set to accommodate revised track configuration for the Victor Valley Brightline West/HDC Station
- Supported project development/ coordination with Caltrans to advance the project segments along Interstate 15 and spanning US-395
- Continued coordination with CHSRA and the city of Palmdale on the initial phasing concepts for the Palmdale Station and regional drainage impacts
- Continued preparation of the draft Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) Cost Estimate and construction schedule
- Supported environmental studies through requests for information of technical data
- Continued coordination and participation with key State and local agency stakeholders such as Brightline West, CHSRA, Caltrans, city of Palmdale, and LA County
- Developed the EDS Scope of Services and Budget planning for FY27
- Continued project management and contract administration activities
- Facilitated and led Project Development Team (PDT) coordination and meetings
- Provided ongoing support to HDC JPA leadership

Key upcoming activities:

- Continue activities in above-mentioned areas, as required
- Initiate Caltrans' project development through their DEER Permit approval process
- Develop conceptual Caltrans Geometric Approval Drawings for I-15 and US-395 improvements
- Continue coordination with key stakeholders such as Brightline West, CHSRA, Caltrans, city of Palmdale, LADWP, and LA County
- Coordinate with the HDC JPA Consultants and Strategic Advisors
- Support development of HDC Financial and Project Delivery Plan
- Update the draft Service Development Plan
- Support Right-of-way acquisition planning efforts
- Support JPA with grant application(s) for new federal and state funding opportunities, as required

HDC JPA July 9 2026 RC 1 Executive Director Report - Attachment A

Financial and Business Advisory Support Quarterly Update April-June 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 included:

- Prepared grant application for State Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) Cycle 8, submitted on May 18. Key activities included:
 - Development of scope and budget
 - Drafting of narrative and associated materials
 - Development and analysis of greenhouse gas reduction data
 - 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 California High-Speed Rail Authority and Brightline West
 - Follow-up strategies
- Preparation for and response to June community meetings

- Monitoring and tracking of California Air Resources Board (CARB) action affecting Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund levels and impacts on TIRCP, including through engagement with California Transit Association
- Assessing CHSRA draft Business Plan and implications for HDC
- Continued development of financial plan, including identification of potential funding/financing sources, assessment of federal policy changes and engagement with potential private sector partners
- Developed materials for preparation and presentation of HDC JPA budget as part of April Board meeting
- Maintained and updated budget and financial reporting tool
- Monitoring and strategy development for relevant State legislation
- Ongoing assessment of optimizing Measure M construction funds
- Continued coordination with Service Development Plan update team
- Assessment of potential CHSRA 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
- Engagement with Caltrans for access to ROW and development of MOU/ cooperative agreements
- Monitored, reported on relevant federal legislative and regulatory issues and events
- Addressed 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
- 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