

*In Partnership with the Bradco Companies
and Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce*

The Bradco Report

[High Desert Corridor-Spring 2013](#)

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By Robert Lovingood
First District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

Of the duties of the 1st District Supervisor in San Bernardino County, one of the most important responsibilities for the economic future of the High Desert is to co-lead the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority (JPA) —a two county special authority (LA and San Bernardino) created in 2007 to jump start the planning and construction of the High Desert Corridor, by creating the state's first Public Private Partnership (P3).

When the JPA began, environmental planning of a highway east of the US Hwy. 395 in Adelanto it was already underway, ending at SR 14 in the Lucerne Valley. A separate Caltrans highway widening project existed within Palmdale City Limits. Both were called the “High Desert Corridor Project.” There was no middle connector of the projects. Please see map below.

Without traditional gas tax funding available, the JPA jolted the project to life using an international financing model where private sector financing, backed by user fees, would be used as the primary source of construction, operation, and maintenance funding. In the USA, this model is known as a Public Private Partnership (P3).

To succeed as a P3, we need to plan and finance the middle connector between Adelanto and Palmdale, so that the P3 extends from the area surrounding a new highway interchange with the I-15 at Falschion Rd. Financing would also emanate from simultaneous construction of rail and green energy components—more info below.

That allows for a future connection between XW in Las Vegas and Los Angeles Union Station, and access to Metrolink for Victor Valley residents. Solar power generated in the right of way for electric powered rail was endorsed in concept, to make the rail and highway components energy independent and self-reliant.

The Two-County Environmental Document (DEIS/R) Managed By Metro

The HDC DEIS/R with rail connectivity to XpressWest and Metrolink, a Green Corridor and a Bikeway was officially dubbed a “Multipurpose Corridor.” This incorporated rail and right-of-way for green energy purposes into the EIS/R by Metro in March of 2012.

Strategic Multipurpose Corridor Components

- Highway/Expressway (including tolling in the middle section between US 395 and 100th St. in Palmdale)
- Green Energy (solar production and/ or transmission facility with connections for other renewable energy sources to be connected to the grid)
- Feeder High Speed Rail (HSR) (connector service tracks from the private sector XW station in Victorville to the Palmdale Transportation Center)
- Bikeway (Route has been included for further analysis)

The purpose of the EIS/R, started by Metro in September 2010, is to study alternatives that improve east-west capacity, safety, goods movement, connectivity to airports, and rail while also contributing to the state’s greenhouse gas reduction goals.

We are fortunate to have Metro and its dynamic staff and Caltrans District 7 taking the lead on this two county effort, and working with SANBAG, the JPA, and the cities along the way. The HDC EIS/R Project Team, led by Robert Machuca of Metro and Karl Price of Caltrans District 7, is currently conducting technical studies on highway and rail alternatives. A Draft EIS/R document is on schedule to be circulated in the spring of 2014, and a final document completed late in 2014.

July Public Meetings

Four public meetings are being scheduled for July for the HDC Multipurpose Corridor including two each in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. In addition, a live webcast will be provided at one of the meetings in each county.

<p>Monday, July 15, 2013 6 -8pm Lake Los Angeles Elementary School 16310 E Avenue Q Palmdale, CA 93591</p> <p>Tuesday, July 16, 2013 6 -8pm Stater Bros Stadium Mavericks Conference Room 12000 Stadium Rd Adelanto, CA 92301</p> <p>Wednesday, July 17, 2013 6 -8pm* Endeavor School of Exploration 12403 Ridgecrest Rd Victorville, CA 92395</p> <p>Monday, July 22, 2013 6 -8pm* Larry Chimbole Cultural Center Joshua Room 38350 Sierra Hwy Palmdale, CA 93350</p> <p><i>*These meetings will be broadcast live. To participate, please go to: ustream.tv/channel/metro-high-desert-corridor.</i></p>
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Dates and places are in the box on page 12, notification of the meetings will be sent out closer to the meeting dates, but stakeholders are encouraged to visit the project website to obtain the latest project information and also to use the GeoSocial Interactive Map that has been created for this project.

This interactive map tool allows users to dynamically interface with project cities, alignments, and other features to get information and also geo-code comments on the map that can also be shared by social media.

*You can visit the project website at www.metro.net/hdc

I invite you to check it often.