



High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority



E-220 HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR

September 24, 2015

Mr. Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Mr. Ryan McEachron, President
San Bernardino Association of Governments
1170 W. 3rd Street
San Bernardino, CA 92410-1715

**Re: HIGH SPEED RAIL RIDERSHIP AND REVENUE STUDY-
HDCJPA Board Action, September 22, 2015**

Dear Chairman Ridley-Scott and President McEachron:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the unanimous action taken by the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority (HDCJPA) Board on September 22, 2015, to authorize the JPA to enter into a contract with Steer Davies Gleave when funding is obtained, for a Passenger Rail Ridership and Revenue Study to connect Anaheim-Burbank-Palmdale-Victorville-Las Vegas.

The HDCJPA was formed in 2006 by the County of San Bernardino and the County of Los Angeles, to expedite development of a 50-mile highway and utility connection between SR 14 in Palmdale and the I-15 in Victorville/ Apple Valley via a P3 (Public Private Partnership). The governing board is comprised of the two High Desert Supervisors of each county, and the Cities of Adelanto, Victorville, Lancaster, Palmdale, and the Town of Apple Valley. SAFTEA LU designated the HDC a Highway of National Significance "High Priority Corridor from Los Angeles to Las Vegas via Palmdale and Victorville."

The Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the High Desert Corridor has been prepared by the California Department of Transportation as the FHWA Delegated Authority under contract from Metro, and in cooperation with the Federal Rail Administration. The process included close coordination and cooperation with the HDCJPA and more than 55 federal, state and local agencies. The Draft EIR/EIS was released in September, 2014; and the preferred alternative was released in June, 2015 that will clear right-of-way for the features required in the adopted Purpose and Need:

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Re: Passenger Rail Ridership and Revenue Study: HDCJPA Board Action, September 22, 2015
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- Highway/tollway
- Rail Connector, between Palmdale Metrolink/ future CAHSR station-- and future XpressWest (XW) station in Victorville
- Green Energy Corridor reduce greenhouse gas emissions, e.g., generate solar, transmit, and connect off-site renewable energy to the grid, or fueling facilities
- Bikeway

With the Final EIS scheduled for release in April, 2016, it is necessary to begin the due diligence activities required to advance this project as a Public Private Partnership. To that end, Metro is administering the vehicle tolling study and requested the HDCJPA to administer the high speed rail ridership and revenue study.

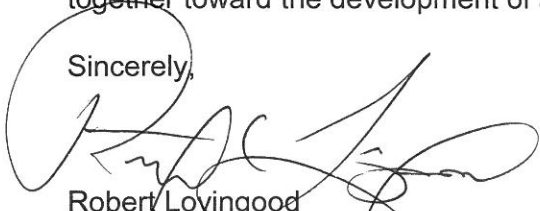
At the HDCJPA Board meeting, the Board unanimously approved a motion authorizing the Chairman to enter into a professional services contract with Steer Davies and Gleave ("SDG") to complete an investment grade ridership and revenue study for rail service between Los Angeles and Las Vegas (Scope of Work attached). Much of the Las Vegas to Victorville data has been reviewed by FRA and their consultants, and can be easily modified for this study. The larger amount of work will be in developing and coordinating new data from LAUnion Station, Burbank, Palmdale and north, and from the Palmdale eastbound passengers through Victorville and north to Las Vegas.

It is imperative that this work commence as soon as possible given the recent advancements of the California High Speed Rail project and the XpressWest project which intends to connect Las Vegas to Los Angeles via the High Desert Corridor. Future data collection/ sharing and planning avenues have been paved with CAHSR, XW, SCAG, and Metrolink.

The next step is to secure the necessary funds for the SDG contract through an agreed cost sharing between the counties in a total amount not to exceed \$900,000. In accordance with the action taken by the Board, the HDCJPA will commence contract negotiations with SDG, to be ready when funding is confirmed at the earliest date possible.

The HDCJPA appreciates your continued support of this project and we look forward to working together toward the development of a Business Plan with the private sector.

Sincerely,



Robert Lovingood
Supervisor, San Bernardino County First District
Chairman, High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority

Attachment