

High Desert Corridor  
Joint Powers Authority

April 9, 2015

Meeting Materials

Item 9

Status of the Draft EIS/R and Review of Next Steps

April 9, 2015

# High Desert Corridor

Joint Powers Authority





# Agenda

- High Desert Corridor Overview
- Environmental Study/Process
- Public Hearings
- Comments Received
- Preferred Alternative
- Schedule



# HDC Project Partner Agencies

- Metro
- Caltrans
- Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
- HDC Joint Powers Authority (JPA)
- SANBAG
- SCAG
- Victorville
- Adelanto
- Lancaster
- Palmdale
- Town of Apple Valley
- Los Angeles County
- San Bernardino County



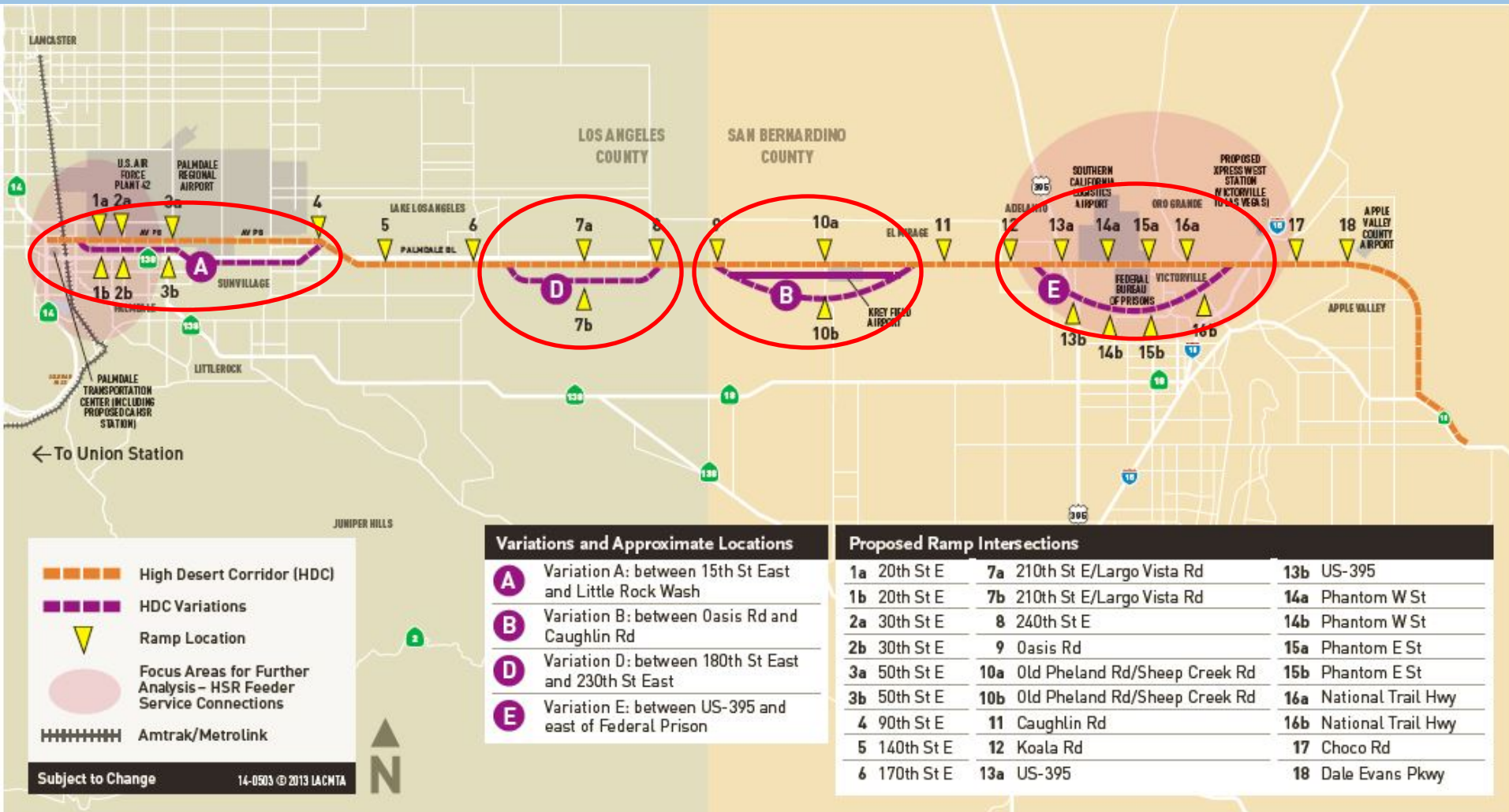


# HDC Purpose and Need

- Address recent and future population growth
- Increase capacity of east-west transportation facilities
- Improve travel safety and reliability
- Improve the regional goods movement network
- Provide improved access and connectivity to regional transportation facilities, including airports and the existing and future passenger rail systems
- Contribute to state greenhouse gas reduction goals



# HDC Corridor and Variations



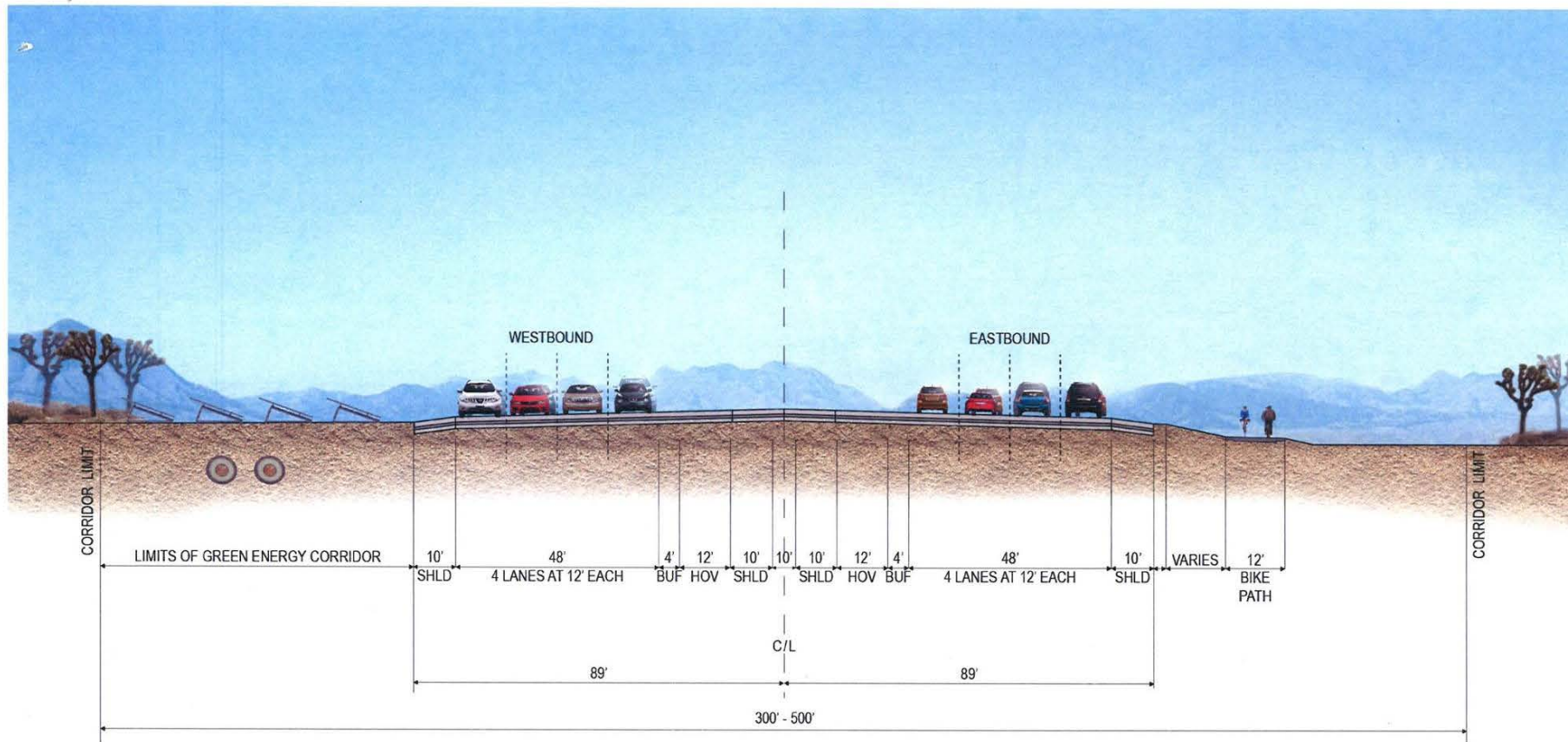


# Proposed Project Alternatives

- **Freeway/Expressway Alternative (Avenue P-8, I-15 and SR-18)**
- **Freeway/Tollway Alternative (Avenue P-8, I-15 and SR-18)**
- **Freeway/Expressway Alternative with High Speed Rail Feeder Service**
- **Freeway/Tollway Alternative with High Speed Rail Feeder Service**
- **No Build Alternative**

# Proposed Freeway/Expressway Alternative

## Cross-Section

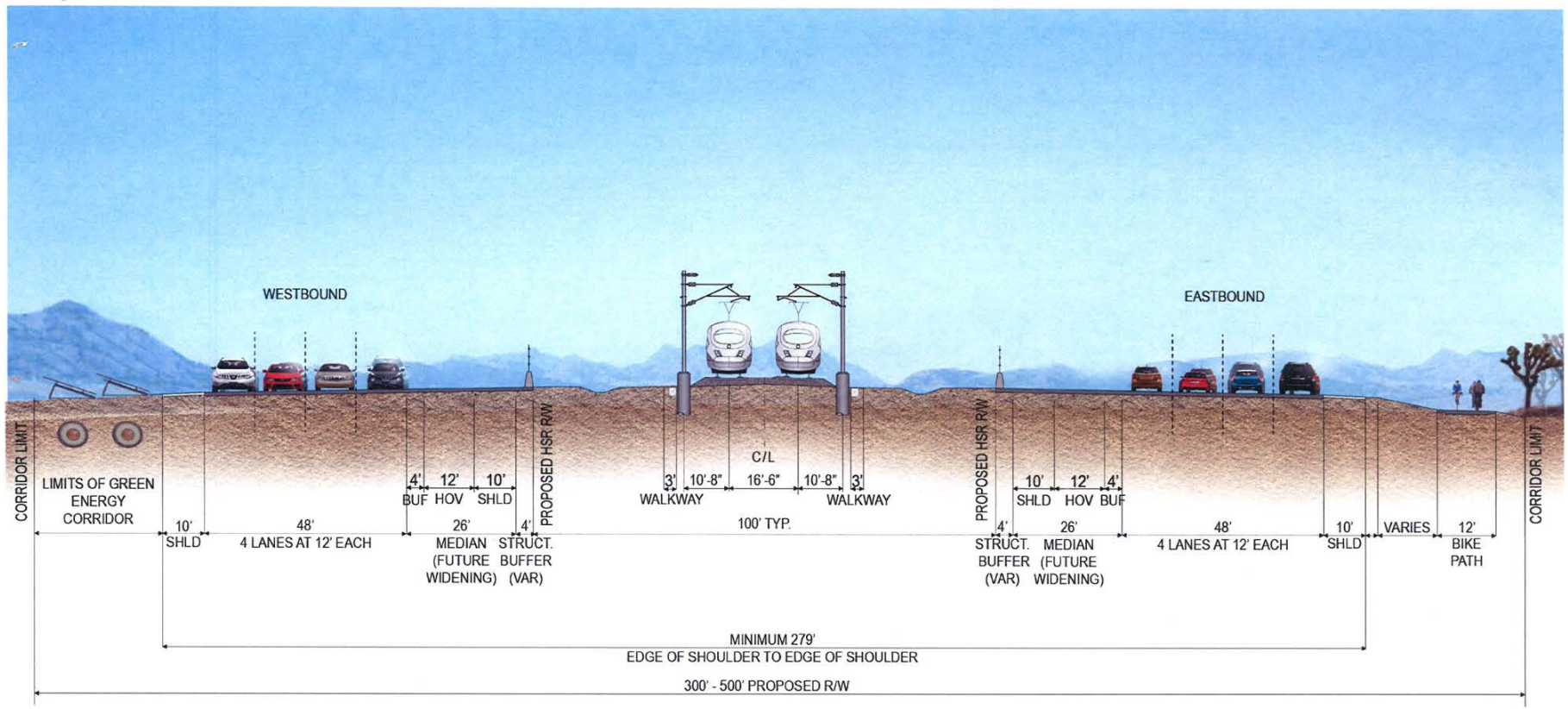


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HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR  
(FUTURE ULTIMATE FREEWAY / EXPRESSWAY ALTERNATIVES)  
TYPICAL SECTION



# Proposed Freeway/Expressway with Rail Alternative Cross-Section

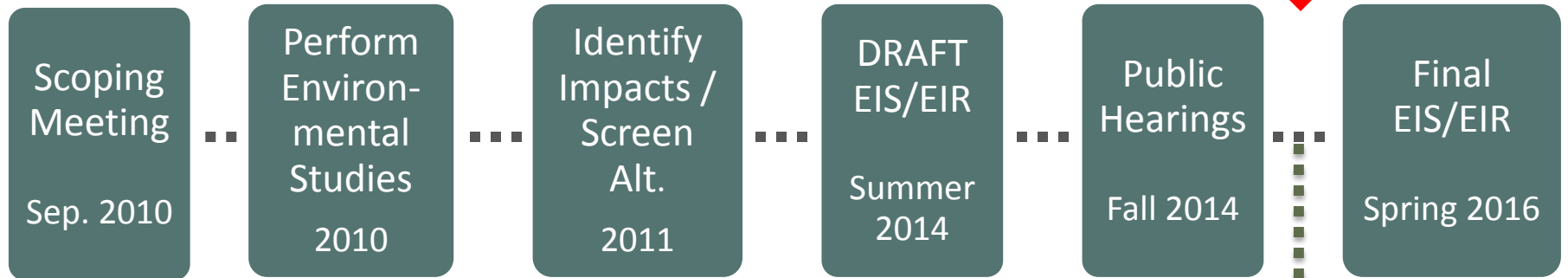


DRAFT

HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR  
 (FUTURE ULTIMATE FREEWAY/ HIGH SPEED RAIL ALTERNATIVE)  
 TYPICAL SECTION

# EIS/EIR Process

## Preliminary Engineering



*WE ARE HERE*

## Public Involvement



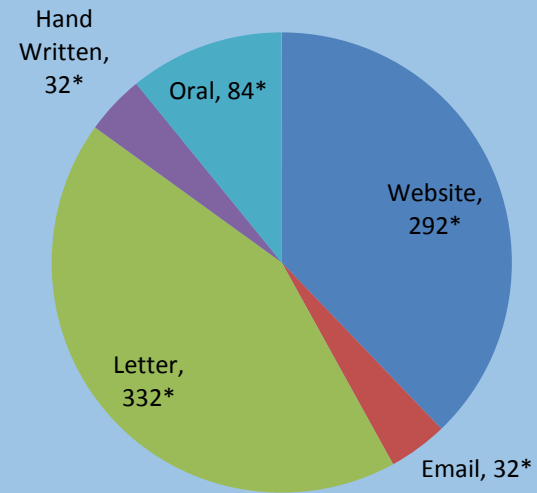
# Public Hearings: Attendance and Comments

Location	Meeting Date	No. of Attendees
Lake Los Angeles Elementary School 16310 E Avenue Q Palmdale, CA 93591	Wednesday November 5, 2014	63
Endeavour School of Exploration 12403 Ridgecrest Rd Victorville, CA 92395	Thursday November 6, 2014	92 (57 in person and 35 online participants)
Larry Chimbole Cultural Center 38350 Sierra Highway Palmdale, CA 93550	Wednesday November 12, 2014	101 (52 in person and 49 online participants)
Apple Valley Conference Center 14975 Dale Evans Parkway Apple Valley, CA 92307	Thursday November 13, 2014	119
Total		375 (291 in person and 84 online)



# Draft EIR/EIS: Comments Received

Entity	Number of Comments
Individuals	158
Agency/ Organization	37
Business	12
Total	207



\*Total: 722 Individual Comments

# Comments by Topic

<b>Project Design and Alternatives</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>Air Quality</b>	<b>32</b>
Land Use	18	Noise	27
Growth	8	Energy	15
Farmland/Grazing Land	4	<b>Biological Environment</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Community Impacts</b>	<b>51</b>	Construction Impacts	13
Utilities/Emergency Services	13	Cumulative Impacts	17
<b>Traffic and Transportation/ Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>Other/General</b>	<b>119</b>
Visual/Aesthetics	13	Right of Way/Relocation	9
Cultural Resources	13	Section 4(f)	5
Hydrology and Floodplain	11	CEQA Evaluation	0
Water Quality and Stormwater Runoff	13	Comments and Coordination	3
Geology/Soils/Seismic/Topography	3	Distribution List	1
Paleontology	2	CEQA Checklist	0
Hazardous Waste or Materials	4	Purpose	0
<b>Total Comments</b>		<b>772</b>	

# Community Involvement

## Outreach Program Summary

- 4 Public Hearings
- 18 Public Meetings (including 6 public meetings broadcasted live and 2 webinars)
- 30 Elected and City Staff Meetings
- 7 Corridor Partner Agency Briefings
- 13 Events
- 5 Institutional Stakeholder Briefings (School Districts, NCTC, AVBOT)
- 6 Interest Group Briefings (WTS, Industry Groups)
- 8 Regulatory Agency Briefings (JPA, SCAG, Caltrans)
- 44 Stakeholder Meetings
- 2 Media briefings
- 1,500 Attendees/Participants
- 2,200+ project database contacts
- 34 Ustream Followers
- 34 Eblasts to the project database





# Outstanding Issues

- The California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) refined alignment
- Viaduct designs need to be developed to minimize impacts to the Mojave River.
- The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) request for additional plant surveys.
- Given the new protected status of the tri-colored blackbird and yellow-billed Cuckoo additional surveys are needed.

# HDC Next Steps

Milestone	Target Date
Selection of a Preferred Alternative	July 2015
Complete Spring Surveys	September 2015
Complete Final EIS/EIR	Early 2016
Record of Decision/Notice of Determination (ROD/NOD)	3-4 months later