

High Desert Corridor
Joint Powers Authority

September 22, 2015

Meeting Materials

Item 3

Approval of Minutes of April 9, 2015

**HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Thursday, April 9, 2015
2:30 p.m.

**San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG)
1170 West Third Street
San Bernardino, CA 92410**

	Directors Present	Robert Lovingood , Supervisor, San Bernardino County First District (Chairman); James Ledford , City of Palmdale; Ryan McEachron , City of Victorville; Fred S. "Scott" Nassif , Town of Apple Valley.
	Alternates Present	Michael Cano , Alternate to Supervisor Antonovich, Los Angeles County Supervisor (Vice Chairman); Jermaine Wright , City of Adelanto.
	Directors Absent	Michael Antonovich , Supervisor, Los Angeles County Fifth District (Vice Chairman); Norman L. Hickling , Deputy to Supervisor Antonovich; Ronald D. Smith , City of Lancaster; Richard Kerr , City of Adelanto; Steven Hofbauer , City of Palmdale
1.	Call to Order	Chairman Robert Lovingood called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.
2.	Approval of Minutes of June 9, 2014	Chairman Lovingood asked if there were any corrections to the June 9, 2014 minutes. On motion of Director Nassif, seconded by Director McEachron, the minutes of the June 9, 2014 Board meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.
3.	Membership Roster Update	Secretary Laura Welch stated the membership roster has been updated to reflect current membership of the JPA and the PTAC. No changes were noted.
4.	Approve Amendment No. 2 to the High Desert Corridor JPA Conflict of Interest Code	Carol Greene, JPA Counsel, stated the Conflict of Interest Code recommended for amendment to comply with the actual positions held by the personnel at the County of San Bernardino at this time. On motion of Director Nassif, seconded by Director McEachron, Amendment No. 2 to the High Desert Corridor JPA Conflict of Interest Code is unanimously approved as submitted.
5.	Director Reports	Chairman Lovingood inquired if there are any reports. Laurie Hunter, JPA Staff Coordinator, stated the HDCJPA had entered into a contract (currently closed) with David Able & Associates to identify some of the energy and environmental stakeholders they would be working with once they knew what the right of way was for the green energy corridor. She stated they had a very successful number of projects with Mr. Able, one of which was for transportation and one for sustainability. Regarding the sustainability project, she said they met

		<p>with Matt Peterson, Mayor Garcetti's Chief of Sustainability, and he is very interested in making highway and transit corridors with any accompanying energy corridor. She said Mayor Garcetti's support is stated in the his letter which mentions the High Desert Corridor (copy on file). She said the High Desert Corridor also received a great amount of street credibility with the cover design of the environmental document which was covered in the Los Angeles Times.</p> <p>Ms. Hunter further stated she was appointed to represent the High Desert Corridor in seeking new ways to finance infrastructure and redevelopment agencies when they were disenfranchised by Governor Brown. She said there were a number of bills in the legislature to replace tax increment financing and other methods redevelopment agencies had used. She indicated the State Legislature passed the bill, not for eliminating blight, but for creating economic development impetus in California. She referenced information in the Board's packet of correspondence related to a group called California Forward as well as information regarding a seminar for advanced infrastructure finance districts. She said this will be a new tool the High Desert Corridor can use in coordination with cities to finance the High Desert Corridor. <i>(Mr. Cano arrived at 2:36 pm)</i></p> <p>Director Cano stated they are aware of amendments to the P3 legislation which could potentially disrupt the private sector's interest in doing P3 infrastructure with amendment to the current law offered by PECG. He stated they are not quite sure how that will move forward but they are monitoring it. He stated LA County Metro is aware of it and they are reaching out to their delegation to be aware that this is on the table. He stated P3 is a very important tool they would like to have available to be able to move forward projects leveraging some public subsidy against other revenue streams. He stated they are taking it very seriously but at this point there is no action on this topic.</p>
6.	Correspondence	<p>Laurie Hunter stated letters are contained in the JPA member's packets from a coalition of agencies who support the Federal Government doing an Interstate Rail study connecting Nevada, Southern California and Arizona in a high speed rail network.</p> <p>She stated Chairman Lovingood and Vice Chairman Antonovich are set to join that Coalition and be part of the stakeholder studies that will be taking place.</p>
7	Recommended Action: Approve 2015-16 Recommended Budget	<p>Robert Saldana, Administrative Analyst (San Bernardino County), stated the notable change this year from their routine operating expenditures is the inclusion of \$165,000 in expenditures and revenue associated with Item 8. He stated everything else is status quo for the 2015/16 budget year.</p> <p>On motion of Director McEachron, seconded by Director Ledford the 2015-16 Recommended Budget is unanimously approved as submitted.</p>
8.	Recommended Action: Adopt High Desert Corridor JPA Resolution 15-1 authorizing the Chairman	<p>Chairman Lovingood stated this item is focused on the high speed rail segment of the High Desert Corridor and will enable the JPA to contract with the TS (Transportation Solutions) to recommend the best path forward. He said the high speed rail work by TS would study the CAHSR</p>

	<p>of the JPA to enter into a Professional Services Contract with Transportation Solutions (TS), in substantially the form submitted to the Board, with such additions and changes that the Chairman determines are in the best interest of the JPA, for performance of the Scope of Work attached to the resolution, and for an amount not to exceed \$165,000</p>	<p>North-South system's connection to Xpress West (<i>Resolution and Draft Scope of Work attached</i>)</p> <p>Ms. Hunter introduced Karen Hedlund, formerly with FRA, FHWA, Nossaman's High Desert Corridor Washington, DC team, and Neil Peterson, who was working as a consultant to the FRA on High Speed Rail in California. Laurie stated that in consultation with County Counsel, a schedule of deliverables should also be an attachment and indicated the timeframe to have it completed by 9/30/15. She said if the item is approved today, Carol Greene will work with Karen Hedlund to get a completed contract to complete the work by September 30, 2015.</p> <p>Carol Green, JPA Counsel, stated this is sole source and authority is required to authorize signature.</p> <p>On motion of Director McEachron, seconded by Director Ledford, the JPA adopts High Desert Corridor Resolution 15-1 authorizing the Chairman of the JPA to enter into a Professional Services Contract with Transportation Solutions (TS), in substantially the form submitted to the Board, with such additions and changes that the Chairman determines are in the best interest of the JPA, for performance of the Scope of Work attached to the resolution, and for an amount not to exceed \$165,000, by unanimous vote as submitted.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Status of Draft EIS/R and Review of Next Steps</p>	<p>Robert Machuca, Los Angeles County Metro, presented and updated the Board members on the environmental study/process. (<i>Power Point on File</i>)</p> <p>Ron Kosinski, Caltrans, Deputy for Environmental Planning, discussed the next steps and public involvement/comments. (<i>Power Point on File</i>)</p> <p>Michael Cano, stated if they are incorporating the Metro schedule he said they should coordinate efforts to get in front of the Metro Board in July.</p> <p>Mr. Kosinski stated they will be working with the Board and emphasized it will be a collaborative effort.</p> <p>Chairman Lovingood stated he thought the original completion date was sometime this fall.</p> <p>Mr. Kosinski stated they are looking at all of the various changes that are proposed and proposed additional studies. He said he would like to minimize those studies and eliminate some of those proposals so they have a clear decision sooner or later. He said if they can get that decision in June or July, he thinks they can move forward quicker and if they can do that, they will pursue that option.</p> <p>Laurie said it would be good to focus on getting the environmental study and preliminary engineering completed at the soonest date possible, which would be in the best interest of the JPA.</p> <p>Mr. Machuca stated they will coordinate during the month of June and move forward with that decision.</p>

<p>10.</p>	<p>Preview of a Draft Metro P3 Financial Study</p>	<p>David Yale, Managing Executive Officer for Planning, Programming and Grants at Metro introduced his financial team for the High Desert Corridor finance plan. Staff are: Mr. Mark Linsenmayer (Metro P3 Program) and Craig Hosijima and Neil Peterson, who are part of a consultant team working on their finance plan.</p> <p>Mr. Linsenmayer presented a preview of a Draft Metro P3 Financial Study (<i>Power Point on file</i>).</p> <p>Director Cano said he was in Washington, DC last month and there was a lot of conversation on the freight bills that are being moved forward and he wanted to make sure Metro is not just tracking but also advocating for more funding that could be used for the HDC. He said the freight they are dealing with may not be coming directly from the port haulers, so he said he would like to call that out more as a focus and really impress their advocacy staff team in San Bernardino County to ensure we are not forgotten when the money is divvied up. He said with the support from two counties perhaps they can be the demonstration projects that might incorporate all of these things, especially with green energy. He said they need to be outgoing and forceful in putting that out there so they know their name in DC and that they are potentially a model for what can be done nationally.</p> <p>Mr. Linsenmayer stated they track the freight initiative closely and they work with SCAG and the ports so he said they will make sure it is incorporated into this study and financing strategy and bring it more to the forefront.</p> <p>Director Nassif said it may be part of the process, but stated perhaps they could set priorities that might leverage other money. For instance, he said High Speed Rail might help leverage the ability to get some other transit dollars.</p> <p>Mr. Yale said the main purpose of the study is to rationalize where they go with their sales tax proposal. He said once they incorporate a significant contribution of sales tax revenue to a project like this, they can use that revenue to do exactly what is being discussed. He stated one of the features of the study is to figure out how to leverage other monies like sales tax revenue. He said in building his financial strategy, and regarding the borrowing plan for the project, if Metro is the backdrop for a private high speed rail enterprise to Las Vegas, there are concerns they would need to carefully address. He said they now have the federal government securing its' loans from work done on the TIFIA program and it must be detailed as to how the project would be dealt with in the event of a bankruptcy. So, he said if they have to make pledges that are equal to their senior bond pledges, that would be a deal breaker for them because they don't want any private debt. He said for now it is a concern until they get financial strategies put in place.</p> <p>Mr. Cano stated this is a project that received federal significance in the SAFTEA LU E220 and has national state mobility value, so if they are going to be engaging the Federal government, maybe there is an advocacy element there to remove some of that risk. He said if there is a strategy on what they'd like to see, he requested they share with Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties so they can push for that as well.</p>
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11.	Public Comment	Harold Reid, Alvin Rice, Arnold San Miguel
12.	Adjourn	<p>Chairman Lovingood commented on the importance of this project and stated the numerous things they will need to address especially as they look at the next 50 years based on data from SANBAG relating to traffic.</p> <p>Chairman Lovingood also suggested the next High Desert Corridor meeting be held in Palmdale.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 3:43 p.m.</p>