



# High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority



## E-220 HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR

### **DRAFT** BOARD AGENDA REPORT 7

#### The High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority

**Date:** April 8, 2021 **DRAFT**

**To:** The High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors (HDC)

**From:** Arthur V Sohikian, Executive Director/Board Secretary

**Subject:** **JANUARY 14, 2021 HDC JPA MINUTES/MEETING RECAP OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Recommended Action:** Approve January 14, 2021 HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes.

HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, Thursday, January 14, 2021 **2:00 p.m.**

The Board of Directors participated via virtual zoom and teleconference:

	Directors Present	Kathryn Barger, Supervisor, County of Los Angeles Fifth District (Chair) Paul Cook, Supervisor, San Bernardino County First District (Vice-Chairman) Steven D. Hofbauer, Mayor, City of Palmdale (Director) Dave Perry, Deputy to Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Los Angeles County Supervisor (Director) Darrell Dorris, Council Member, City of Lancaster (Director) Donna Jones, Mayor, City of Victorville (Director) Scott Nassif, Council Member, Town of Apple Valley (Director)
	Directors Alternates Present and non-voting	Elizabeth Becerra, Council Member, City of Victorville (Alternate Director, non-voting) Richard Loa, Council Member, City of Palmdale (Alternate Director, non-voting). HDC Staff Present: Arthur Sohikian, Executive Director Lynna Monell, Clerk of the Board (San Bernardino County) John Tubbs, County Counsel, County of San Bernardino County Jessica Trillo, San Bernardino County Administrative Office, Finance and Administration. Amanda Meere, San Bernardino County, County Administrative Office, Government Affairs.
2.	Call to Order and Roll Call	Vice-Chair Barger called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. Executive Director Arthur Sohikian conducted Roll Call and noted there was a quorum with 7 of 7 Board Members present with two Alternate Board Members.
3	Pledge of Allegiance	Led by Director Dorris
4.	Public Comments	Chair Barger inquired of the Executive Director, if there was any HDC JPA Authority public comment.  Executive Director Sohikian indicated that there was no written, virtual or telephone public comment

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Col. Paul Cook (Ret.)**  
Supervisor, San Bernardino County First District

**Darrell Dorris**  
Council Member, City of Lancaster

**Steven D. Hofbauer**  
Mayor, City of Palmdale

**Dave Perry**  
Los Angeles County

**Kathryn Barger**  
Supervisor, Los Angeles County Fifth District (Vice-Chair)

**Scott Nassif**  
Council Member, Town of Apple Valley

**Vacant**  
City of Adelanto

**Debra Jones**  
Mayor, City of Victorville



5.	<p><b><u>Recommended Action:</u></b>  A. Election of HDC JPA Board Officers to July 8, 2021 Board meeting.  B. Appoint of HDC JPA Board Secretary  C. Approve HDC Quarterly Board virtual meetings at 2pm as follows: April 8, 2021; July 8, 2021 and October 14, 2021</p>	<p>Election of Chair  On motion by Director Hofbauer with second by Director Cook, Director Barger was elected as Chair of HDC.  AYES: Kathryn Barger, Paul Cook, Steven Hofbauer, Darrell Dorris, Dave Perry, Donna Jones, and Scott Nassif</p> <p>Election of Vice Chair  On motion by Chair Barger with second from Director Hofbauer, Director Cook is elected as Vice-Chair of HDC.  AYES: Kathryn Barger, Paul Cook, Steven Hofbauer, Darrell Dorris, Dave Perry, Donna Jones, and Scott Nassif</p> <p>Appointment of JPA Secretary and Approve 2021 Board Calendar: April 8, July 8, October 14, 2021 at 2pm.</p> <p>On motion by Board Chair Barger with second by Director Nassif, Arthur Sohikian is appointed as Secretary and the 2021 Board Calendar is approved: April 8, July 8, October 14, 2021 at 2pm.</p> <p>AYES: Kathryn Barger, Paul Cook, Steven Hofbauer, Darrell Dorris, Dave Perry, Donna Jones, and Scott Nassif</p>
6.	Correspondence	<p>Chair Barger inquired of the Clerk to the Board, Lynna Monell, if there was any HDC JPA Authority correspondence.</p> <p>Clerk Monell indicated that there was no correspondence.</p>
7.	<p><b><u>Recommended Action:</u></b>  Approve Minutes of October 29, 2020 HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>On motion by Director Hofbauer, seconded by Director Jones, the Board approved the minutes of October 29, 2020 HDC JPA Board meeting.</p> <p>AYES: Kathryn Barger, Paul Cook, Steven Hofbauer, Darrell Dorris, Dave Perry, Donna Jones, and Scott Nassif</p>
8.	<p><b><u>Recommended Action:</u></b>  Receive and File Executive Director Report and Provide Direction on 2021 Work Plan</p>	<p>Executive Director Arthur Sohikian provided the report with the following highlights:  <u>HDC Highway Component Status Update</u>  In 2018, HDC JPA supports study of an alternative to the HDC 2016 Locally Preferred Alternative, Freeway/Tollway Highway Component and decides to focus on first phase as the Rail Component of the LPA.</p> <p>December 31, 2020, Caltrans notifies US Federal Highways Administration FHWA that HDC Rail Component is moving forward with FRA for a ROD in 2021. Caltrans selects no build option for HDC Freeway/Tollway alternative and reserves the right to resume work on the highway component at some point in the future.</p> <p>Metro, SBCTA, Caltrans Districts 7/8 focused on widening SR18/SR138 as a continuous 4-lane highway between the Antelope and Victory Valleys (Victorville/Palmdale) connecting high desert communities in San Bernardino County and Los Angeles County. (SR14/SR138 map below).</p> <p>SBCTA allocated Measure I funds and Metro allocated Measure M HDC funds to start the focused PSR-PDS project development documents with Metro as the lead agency starting early 2021.</p> <p><u>HDC Rail Component Status Update</u>  During 2020 HDC consultant team has been preparing for a 2021 petition to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to seek the LPA Rail Component</p>

Record of Decision (ROD) with concurrent petition to the US Surface Transportation Board (STB) for environmental jurisdiction/clearance.

Due to the interoperability of the highspeed rail systems, TS and their counsel, Venable LLP, has recommended that the HDC Rail Component petition to the STB for a determination that STB has jurisdiction over the HDC Rail Component that extends Brightline West Station in the Town of Apple Valley to the California High Speed Rail Station in the City of Palmdale, both of which have previously been ruled to be subject to STB jurisdiction for environmental clearance.

Reevaluation/Revalidation and petition for STB jurisdiction to ensure interoperability with CA High Speed Rail Bakersfield to Palmdale Section and Brightline West alignment changes including moving the station in Victorville to the Town of Apple Valley.

HDC is scheduled to submit Reevaluation/Revalidated documentation to FRA and STB by later 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021 with the goal to receive final ROD/Notice of Determination (NOD) by 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021.

Metro Board approved \$5 million budget for HDC Intercity Rail Service Development Plan & Funding Plan including \$3 million of HDC Measure M funds, \$1.375 million in CalSTA 2018 Transit Intercity Rail Capital Plan State grant under the Network Integration category, and \$625K from Brightline West (\$250K in cash and \$375K of in-kind contributions) for Metro to develop with HDC, Brightline West.

#### **2021 HDC Work Plan:**

1<sup>st</sup> Qtr 2021 Submit Reevaluation/Revalidation documentation to FRA and STB. 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr 2021 Complete ROD/Notice of Determination (NOD).

Seek funds from all available sources to complete the ROD with environmental clearance/STB.

Seek final ROD determination from the FRA and environmental clearance from STB.

Authorize the TS consultant contract (1/14/21 Board Report 9 Amendment 7) to complete ROD/STB, subject to HDC budget availability.

Ensure SR18/138 Highway Component begins PDS process in early 2021 with Metro/SBCTA/Caltrans.

Coordinate and advance the Metro High Desert Corridor Intercity Rail Service Development Plan & Funding Plan.

City of Palmdale Station coordination with CA HSR, Metro Regional Rail, Metrolink, Caltrans, Brightline.

Town of Apple Valley Station coordination with Brightline West.

		<p>Explore the ROW acquisition process utilizing Los Angeles County Measure M funds.</p> <p>Seek Partnership and Funding Grant opportunities from federal, state, regional sources.</p> <p>Update and Strengthen then resubmit the 2018 HDC TIRCP grant application to next SB1 TIRCP funding cycle. <b>Executive Director Report Attachment A: High Desert Corridor Rail Component Funding Opportunities</b></p> <p>Seek Partnerships from Private Sector, potential PPP procurement process.</p> <p>Continuous briefing of elected officials, funding/operational partner agencies, and community and business stakeholders.</p> <p>Update and migrate the HDC website.</p> <p>HDC JPA structure review to strengthen partnerships. Seek stable funding source for HDC operations.</p> <p>FY 2021-22 Budget Adoption at July 8, 2021 Authority Board meeting.</p> <p><b>HDC JPA Restructure MOTION</b> On motion by Chair Barger with second from Director Hofbauer, the Board directed the Executive Director and County Counsel to draft options for JPA restructure that seeks a stable yearly funding source and to report back to the Board at April 8, 2021 Board meeting.</p>
9.	<p><u>Recommended Action:</u> A. Approve HDC FY2020/21 Modified Budget.</p> <p>B. Approve Executive Director not to exceed \$6000 to transition current HDC website from San Bernardino County website to <a href="http://www.highdesertcorridor.org">www.highdesertcorridor.org</a></p>	<p>Executive Director Sohikian noted that subsequent to posting of the Board agenda, LA Metro notified HDC that they had \$400,000 available for the Rail ROD Transportation Solutions consultant contract work.</p> <p>A. Approve HDC FY2020/21 Modified Budget as amended adding \$400,000 for Transportation Solutions Amendment 7 Contract. Motion by Director Nassif with a second by Director Hofbauer. AYES: Kathryn Barger, Paul Cook, Steven Hofbauer, Darrell Dorris, Dave Perry, Donna Jones, and Scott Nassif.</p> <p>B. Approve Executive Director not to exceed \$6000 to transition current HDC website from San Bernardino County website to <a href="http://www.highdesertcorridor.org">www.highdesertcorridor.org</a> Motion by Director Nassif with a second by Director Dorris AYES: Kathryn Barger, Paul Cook, Steven Hofbauer, Darrell Dorris, Dave Perry, Donna Jones, and Scott Nassif.</p>
10	<p><u>Recommended Action:</u> A. Approve Transportation Solutions Contract Amendment 7, including subcontractors, for a not to exceed amount of \$581,203, pending budget capacity. B. Authorize the Executive Director/County of San Bernardino to execute contract Amendment 7, pending budget capacity.</p>	<p>Executive Director Sohikian presented the item and pointed out that as he stated in Item 8 Executive Director Report, completing the Rail ROD with the FRA/STB is top priority and the consultant work necessary to complete the ROD with Transportation Solutions and its subcontractors is \$581,403.</p> <p>Mr. Sohikian noted that subsequent to posting of the Board Agenda, LA Metro notified HDC that they had \$400,000 available for the Rail ROD FRA/STB consultant work needed with Transportation Solutions.</p> <p>The TS and subcontractor's consultant work needed to complete ROD with FRA and STB environmental clearance to be shovel-ready.</p>

		<p>Transportation Solutions (TS) proposed Amendment 7 for \$581,203 (\$483K ROD and \$98K STB). Partial funding identified from Supervisor Kathryn Barger (\$220K), City of Palmdale (\$95K), and San Bernardino County in-kind staffing (\$12,500) have committed funds to the HDC.</p> <p>Mr. Sohikian described, as in Item 9 on the Modified FY 2020/21 budget, adding \$400,000 funds from LA Metro for the consultant work needed to complete the FRA/STB Rail ROD, shovel ready environmental clearance.</p> <p>Transportation Solutions and Subcontractors Amendment 7 Cost Breakdown:  Transportation Solutions, including Venable, LLC and Karen Hedlund – \$97,350  AECOM – \$34,108  CirclePoint – \$449,745  Total: \$581,203</p> <p>Approve motion as amended by Director Hofbauer with a second from Director Nassif:  A. Approve Transportation Solutions Contract Amendment 7, including subcontractors, for a not to exceed amount of \$581,203 <del>pending budget capacity</del>.</p> <p>B. Authorize the Executive Director/County of San Bernardino to execute contract Amendment 7 <del>pending budget capacity</del>.</p> <p>AYES: Kathryn Barger, Paul Cook, Steven Hofbauer, Darrell Dorris, Dave Perry, Donna Jones, and Scott Nassif</p>
11	HDC Future Items	Highway component discussion East of I-15.
12	Adjourn	<p>There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m.  Next Meeting: April 8, 2021, 2pm</p> <p>Motion to adjourn by Director Dorris with second from Director Nassif.  AYES: Kathryn Barger, Paul Cook, Steven Hofbauer, Darrell Dorris, Dave Perry, Donna Jones, and Scott Nassif</p>