

High Desert Corridor
Joint Powers Authority

June 9, 2014

Meeting Materials

Item 2

Approval of Minutes of January 21, 2014

**HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Tuesday, January 21, 2014
10:00 a.m.**

**San Bernardino County Government Center
385 North Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0130**

	Directors Present	Robert Lovingood , Chair and Supervisor, San Bernardino County First District; Michael Cano , Alternate to Supervisor Antonovich, Los Angeles County Supervisor (Vice Chairman); Norman L. Hickling , Deputy to Supervisor Antonovich; James Ledford , City of Palmdale (arrived at 10:08 a.m.); Ryan McEachron , City of Victorville. Mayor Cari Thomas of Adelanto and Councilmember Scott Nassif of the Town of Apple Valley were present as guests.
	Alternates Present	Michael Cano , Alternate for Supervisor Antonovich, Los Angeles County Supervisor (Vice Chairman)
	Directors Absent	Michael Antonovich , Vice Chairman and Supervisor, Los Angeles County Fifth District; Ronald D. Smith , City of Lancaster
1.	Call to Order	Acting Vice Chair Michael Cano called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Supervisor Lovingood led the Pledge of Allegiance. JPA Secretary Laura Welch conducted the roll call and a quorum was declared.
2.	Election of HDCJPA Chairman	Acting Vice Chair/Director Cano opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the High Desert Corridor JPA. On Motion by Acting Vice Chair Cano, seconded by Director McEachron, and with no objections, Director Lovingood is unanimously elected as the Chairman of the High Desert Corridor JPA.
3.	Approval of Minutes	Chairman Lovingood asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. On motion of Director Cano, seconded by Director Hickling, the minutes of the April 10, 2013 Board meeting were approved unanimously as submitted.
4.	Director Reports	Chairman Lovingood asked if there were any reports or comments from the Directors. Director Cano stated that they are excited about prospects of some of the major reports for this project this year. At Metro, he said they have been focusing on a lot of different elements, including a potential new sales tax measure, and discussion about needs and priorities in Los Angeles County. He continued that the HDC is a project they continue to promote with both at Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and Southern California Associated Governments (SCAG), and that they are very excited about the potential rail

		<p>component and energy component of this corridor. He stated that they are developing the groundwork for the people to understand that this is probably the most unique project they will see, at least in Los Angeles County.</p> <p>Chairman Lovingood stated that this is one of the best laid out plans and it needs to get on the map and needs to be registered.</p>
5.	FPPC Reporting Requirements	<p>Secretary Laura Welch stated Form 700's (Conflict of Interest Statements) are due to the Clerk of the Board's Office by April 1st for designees in the HDCJPA Conflict of Interest Code and indicated an e-mail was also sent as a reminder to those designees who must file this form.</p>
6.	HDCJPA Board Appointments	<p>Chairman Lovingood introduced and welcomed Councilmember Scott Nassif of the Town of Apple Valley and Mayor Cari Thomas of the City of Adelanto who were present at today's meeting. It is anticipated that they will soon be appointed to represent their respective town/city on the High Desert Corridor JPA.</p>
7.	California High Speed Rail Authority Update	<p>Michelle Boehm, Southern California Regional Director, CHSRA</p> <p>Ms. Boehm pointed out how transformational this project is and thanked the Board for their support.</p>
8.	Palmdale 500 Foot Right of Way connectivity	<p>Laurie Hunter, JPA Staff Coordinator, stated at the last meeting they discussed getting closer to Palmdale Regional Airport by expanding the 300 foot right of way to the 500 foot right of way. She stated at the last meeting they could not take action since the item was not specified for action on the agenda.</p> <p>Motion by Director McEachron, seconded by Director Ledford, the Board unanimously approved the Palmdale 500 Foot Right of Way Connectivity.</p> <p>Director Ledford stated concerns about the 138 North and said others may need to have the same discussion. On this item of concern, he said it is not the 500 foot right of way, but there is the need to be talking about the interface of these various modes at the High Desert Corridor. In his opinion he said they need to be talking more and Metro needs to be talking more with Metrolink and California High Speed Rail. He said he is willing to facilitate meetings with those three entities. He believed they are all operating independently which is not good for them and does not think they are operating at the level they need to. He stated he supported the motion, but emphasized he wants more discussion and is willing to facilitate those meetings.</p>
9.	Presentation on the EIS/R Alternatives Analyses	<p>Lan Saadatnejadi, Executive Officer from Metro, presented an overview of the status of the project. She stated the project is moving along and they are working closely with XpressWest and California High Speed Rail along with Federal Rail Administration (FRA) to develop this project and stated they are having monthly meetings. In addition to that, she stated they are going to start having coordination meetings with the Antelope Valley Transit Authority to look at how they can do a better interface. She said Metro is also taking on a study to look at the entire North County transportation strategies. She stated she appreciates</p>

Mayor Ledford's efforts in terms of partnering with them. Ms. Saadatnejadi introduced project manager, Robert Machuca, to give a brief overview of the project status.

Robert Machuca (*Powerpoint on file*) stated to Mayor Ledford that he appreciated his offer so they have the synergy and consensus on how to move forward. He said they have been meeting with staff, in particular Palmdale staff, to get to some of those concerns and questions and said there is still a lot of coordination that must be done but believed they have achieved a lot in the last nine months.

Director Ledford stated he believed it is the partnership they need to be developing for better communication.

Further, Director Ledford stated his concern with speed. He said there are these high speed curvatures that are going to interface the High Desert Corridor with the existing high speed rail. He stated their issue is how they maximize that design so they get the highest speed capability they can because what is appropriate today is probably not going to be appropriate in 50 years. He stated they need to be visionary in this particular component and said those are the facilitations of conversations they are talking about and stated it is very important they do this right.

Mr. Machuca stated those are some of the same conversations they have been having with the High Speed Rail Authority and they have submitted to them design standards that they really look for in order to connect both of their potential systems. So, yes, he stated they are very aggressive in building that high tolerance for speed and making sure those connections are taking place not only for today's speed numbers but for the future. He said they are making sure they design for the most aggressive possible speed but at the same time maintaining that balance with the community.

Mr. Cano asked what the maximum speed is planned overall from Palmdale and Victorville and as you approach highway intersections. He also asked if there is a potential for expanding the radius.

Mr. Machuca stated California High Speed Rail is looking at a design to operate at 220 to 250 mph. He said XpressWest is looking at operating at 160 mph depending on stops. He stated because of those measurements, they want to make sure they can accommodate those systems and meet them half way. He said they are designing their system (tracks) at 180 mph and potentially operating at 150 mph. He stated in his communications with FRA over the last six months they are asking these types of questions and asking how they are communicating with their two partners (JPA and XpressWest) and also asking how they are communicating between the two. He said he is encouraged because they are contacting him rather than the other way around.

A question was also asked about Plant 42 and Lockheed and the importance of their employment base in the Antelope Valley and how those conversations have gone and their partnership.

		<p>Mr. Machuca stated it is early on, however, as far as those various aspects of the project that might affect their proximity to the project, they are still trying to digest this information. He stated once they come up with their numbers i.e., vibration and noise, they want to look at those specific numbers and they will then give their feedback. He said they do sound encouraged with the project.</p> <p>He also stated that one thing they identified early was when they were looking at options to a “Y” connection in Palmdale where you have a train system moving north and south, one of the options they looked at was potentially clipping one of their parking lots. He said they found there was a large gate that had a potential ingress/egress impact so they are continuing to work with them to see how they can mitigate that issue. He said they want to make sure they are sharing those types of findings with them early on and they do sound encouraged and positive.</p> <p>Laurie asked if he could explain the XpressWest going into the “Y” configuration and the northbound bypass in Palmdale.</p> <p>Mr. Machuca referenced and explained the PowerPoint which contains a good graphic on the two options they are looking at for a “Y” connection.</p> <p>Director Ledford again warned against letting an existing station set the design for the vision of this project. He stated they need to look at what is in the best interest of the system and the interface and the design. He stated if they limit themselves he believes they are going to be limiting the accessibility. He said the alignment is what they are focusing on in their community so a western location would not be something they would support. He stated he thinks the alignment should be where the tracks are and they need to develop a solution. He stated a station will come, and it could land in a different location.</p> <p>Alternate Director Cano stated California High Speed Rail will have to be keyed in since their environmental documents reference two locations, so they will need to be aware in that regard.</p> <p>Regarding the High Desert Corridor, he inquires if there have been issues with the catenary with the electrical system.</p> <p>Mr. Machuca stated they have met with the FAA to see how that will play out with the close proximity of the catenary system and the airport. He stated they are abiding by all standards FAA has in place. Again, regarding Plant 42, they may be more sensitive so they are coordinating with them to see that they can to mitigate as much as possible. He stated they are also coordinating with the Authority.</p> <p>Chair Lovingood requests Mr. Machuca’s PowerPoint be distributed to the members after the meeting.</p>
10.	Green Corridor Budget Expenditure	<p>Chair Lovingood stated at the last meeting, they budgeted dollars to help educate urban planners and environmental groups about the Green Corridor as an important part of the High Desert Corridor. He requested Laurie Hunter make a presentation.</p>

		<p>Ms. Hunter stated they have been doing research to identify the definition of the rail, highway and the bikeway component which are all in the EIS, but they have some right of way that is dedicated that isn't filled by the highway or the rail project they are going to devote to Green Energy Corridor. She noted they really haven't defined that yet. She stated what this budgeted item is for is to find the best forum, the best groups and the best way to solicit input from experts in the field, both in the urban land planning organizations like the Urban Land Institute, environmental groups like the Environmental Defense Fund, and some of the more visionary politicians in the State of California to help solicit their input as to what is the best use of that right of way for Green Corridor purposes. She stated they want them to look into the future, so they need people that know the technology of solar. She said they don't want to put down what is good today, but want to be looking ten years out and what kind of solar generation and distribution systems will be the best for the High Desert Corridor. In order to move that forward, she stated there happens to be a place where all of those interests come together, which is a conference Dave Abel and Associates puts on annually called "Verde Exchange". She stated all of the people she mentioned come to that conference and read his newsletters. In deliberating as to the best way to spend this money efficiently to solicit that input, and at the same time educate people that have not heard about the Green County Corridor as part of the High Desert Corridor, she stated they have identified Dave Abel's group as having the most synergy which will enable them to take their money the furthest. She stated the item today is to recommend a purchase order for the budget to enable them to work with Abel and Associates and Metro for a future conference they are going to be having with "Verde Exchange" on the High Desert Corridor in June.</p> <p>Alternate Director Cano stated one of the things they try to do is influence legislation and policy at the Federal and State levels rather than reacting to it and given the short term life span of Map 21 at the Federal level and the desire to look for new ways of providing policy, advice or funding, they can perhaps help steer that conversation so there is credit for a Green Energy component.</p> <p>Director Ledford said he believes the public benefits from this and the vision is big. He stated for them they want to try to bring them on board and without being so specific they limit themselves. He said the whole system can use more of that kind of promotion.</p> <p>Motion by Director Cano, seconded by Director Ledford, the Board unanimously approved the Green Corridor Budget Expenditure.</p>
11	Administrative Update	<p>Gerry Newcombe, JPA Administrator, stated they are working on the 2013 audit and will most like have it ready next month. He also said they will need another JPA meeting before the end of the fiscal year to approve the 2014/15 budget.</p>
12.	SCAG Primary Freight Network Update	<p>Laurie Hunter stated at SCAG they were working with the Federal government to identify the Southern California primary freight network which is in order to prepare for future legislation that may happen that may have container fees or some other freight revenue that doesn't exist today. She indicated they are trying to get a map together to make</p>

		<p>eligibility for this future money and to define that at this point in time. She stated they tried to get the High Desert Corridor into the primary freight network, but unfortunately, the Federal Government says you have to be in existence today in order to get onto the map. She said the next best thing was to reduce the amount of time (there was a ten year review time) so they got SCAG and the Regional Council to advocate reducing that time to every five years going back and reviewing it. She stated they will be following this, but this is something the JPA should know.</p> <p>Ms. Saadatnejadi stated Metro has submitted their formal comments back to SCAG requesting to add High Desert Corridor as a new freight linkage to the primary freight corridor in that region and to also delete the 710 gap from the primary corridor.</p> <p>Chair Lovingood said he echoed what Mayor Ledford had to say and believed we need a more robust outreach that is something we will participate in. He stated the Victor Valley and the High Desert in our community sees this as a very positive opportunity which are rare to be seen and believed we need to seize all the economic advantages that go along with that.</p>
13.	Public Comment	No general public comment.
14.	Adjourn	There being no further business, Motion by Director Hickling, seconded by Alternate Director Cano, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m. A future meeting date will be set as needed.