



**HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR  
JOINT POWERS AGENCY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MEETING AGENDA**

**Thursday, January 12, 2023 – 2:00 p.m.**

Members of the public may participate in the virtual meeting via Zoom info below.  
Please mute phones/computer audio, until you are called to speak.

**HDC JPA Board Meeting Virtual Info:**

**Join HDC JPA Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom, click link  
below:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85197371935?pwd=T1QyeU5rSUIlRTdXbnZ1dko4T3dwUT09>

Meeting ID: 851 9737 1935 Passcode: 961317

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,85197371935#,,, \*961317# US (San Jose)

+16694449171,,85197371935#,,, \*961317# US

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85197371935?pwd=T1QyeU5rSUIlRTdXbnZ1dko4T3dwUT09>

Meeting ID: 851 9737 1935 Passcode: 961317

**HDC JPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS**

Kathryn Barger, Supervisor, 5<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District, Los Angeles County  
Vacant, City of Palmdale (appointment pending)  
Darrell Dorris Council Member, City of Lancaster  
Ara Najarian, Chair, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
Gabriel Reyes, Mayor, City of Adelanto  
Elizabeth Becerra, Council Member, City of Victorville

**HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER ALTERNATES**

Richard Loa, Council Member, City of Palmdale  
Bob Harriman, Council Member, City of Victorville  
Daniel Ramos, Council Member, City of Adelanto

**HDC JPA STAFF**

Executive Director: Arthur V. Sohikian  
Legal Counsel: Laura Jacobson, Deputy County Counsel, Los Angeles County

**OPEN SESSION**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Barger
2. **ROLL CALL** – Secretary Sohikian
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **HDC JPA VIRTUAL/REMOTE BOARD MEETING OPT-IN UNDER AB 361** – Laura Jacobson, Legal Counsel, Los Angeles County Deputy County Counsel

**Recommended Action:** *Adopt findings and approve January 12, 2023, virtual meeting under AB 361 during Proclaimed State of Emergency with findings as follows:*

1. *There exists a “proclaimed state of emergency”, pursuant to the Governor’s State of Emergency Declaration, issued on March 4, 2020.*
2. *State and/or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.*

**Future Meetings** – Discussion and potential setting of special meetings.

*If HDC JPA wishes to consider invoking AB 361 virtual meetings for subsequent meetings:*

- a. *The proclaimed state of emergency must remain active; or*
- b. *State or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing;*

AND

c. Not later than 30 days after teleconferencing for the first time under the AB 361, and every 30 days thereafter, the board shall again make the following findings by majority vote:

The board has reconsidered the circumstances of emergency, and at least one of the following circumstances exist:

- a) The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person; or,
- b) State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

HDC JPA is conducting business remotely. HDC JPA is committed to ensuring that our public meetings are accessible to the public and that the public can observe and address the meeting and to participate by providing written and oral comment on HDC matters. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Executive Director Arthur Sohikian at [sohikian@highdesertcorrdior.org](mailto:sohikian@highdesertcorrdior.org). At this time members of the public can address the HDC JPA Board of Directors regarding any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the agency that are not separately listed on this agenda. When possible, lengthy testimony should be presented to the Board in writing and only pertinent points presented orally.

### **HDC JPA BOARD CONSENT CALENDAR**

*All items listed under the Consent Calendar are routine and may be enacted by one motion. Prior to the motion to consider any action by the Board, any public comments on any of the Consent Calendar items will be heard. There will be no separate action unless Board Members request items be removed from the Consent Calendar.*

## 6. HDC JPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES/RECAP OF PROCEEDINGS

**Recommended Action:** *Approve November 9, 2022, HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom webinar format.*

### **HDC JPA BOARD REGULAR CALENDAR**

## 7. BRIGHTLINE WEST HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT UPDATE — Brightline West Staff

**Recommended Action:** *Receive and file report.*

## 8. HDC JPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – HDC JPA Executive Director

**Recommended Action:** *Receive and file report.*

## 9. HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

## 10. ADJOURNMENT. Next HDC JPA Board Meeting is April 20, 2023, 2pm.



**AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 6**  
**High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency**

Date: January 12, 2023  
 To: Board of Director Members of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency (HDC)  
 From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director  
 Subject: **HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes/Recap of Proceedings**

**Recommendation Action:**

Approve November 9, 2022, HDC JPA Board Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom webinar format.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Barger calls virtual Board meeting to order at 2:00pm**
- 2. ROLL CALL – Quorum Present, 6 voting members as follows:**

**HDC JPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS – present/voting members**

Kathryn Barger, Supervisor, 5<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District, Los Angeles County  
 Elizabeth Becerra, Council Member, City of Victorville  
 Juan Carrillo, Council Member, City of Palmdale  
 Darrell Dorris, Council Member, City of Lancaster  
 Ara Najarian, Chair, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
 Gabriel Reyes, Mayor, City of Adelanto

**HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER ALTERNATES – present/non-voting member**

Richard Loa, Council Member, City of Palmdale

**HDC JPA STAFF**

Executive Director: Arthur V. Sohikian  
 Legal Counsel: Laura Jacobson, Deputy County Counsel, Los Angeles Count

- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Director Dorris**
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – No Public Comment**
- 5. HDC JPA VIRTUAL/REMOTE BOARD MEETING OPT-IN UNDER AB 361 –**

**Approved** on Motion by Director Dorris, second by Director Becerra

KB	EB	JC	DD	AN	GR
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

- 6. HDC JPA ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS, APPROVE CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE AND APPROVE 2023 HDC JPA BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Approved** Election of Director Barger as Chair. Motion by Director Becerra, seconded by Director Dorris

KB	EB	JC	DD	AN	GR
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

**Approved** Election of Director Becerra as Vice Chair. Motion by Chair Barger, seconded by Director Reyes

KB	EB	JC	DD	AN	GR
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

**Approved** by Motion by Chair Barger and seconded by Director Reyes

**Recommended Action:**

- A. Election of HDC JPA Board Officers to January 2024.
- B. Appoint Executive Director as HDC JPA Board Secretary
- C. Approve Conflict of Interest Code
- D. Approve HDC Quarterly Board meetings at 2pm as follows:  
January 12, 2023, April 20, 2023; July 13, 2023; October 19, 2023.

KB	EB	JC	DD	AN	GR
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

**7. HDC JPA PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023, TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM CURRENT HDC JPA TO NEW HDC JPA, AND NEW WEBSITE –**

**Approved** by Motion by Director Carrillo and seconded by Vice Chair Becerra

**Recommended Action:**

- A. Approve the inaugurated High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget of \$1,236,500 (Attachment A - Proposed FY22-23 Budget, Attachment B - New JPA Agreement).
- B. Authorize the transfer of the remaining funds from the County of San Bernardino current High Desert Corridor Joint Powers *Authority* to the County of Los Angeles for the inaugurated High Desert Corridor Joint Powers *Agency* to be completed by December 31, 2022.
- C. Authorize the Executive Director to pay for creative design (logo creation) and website development for the inaugurated HDC Joint Powers Agency in the amount of \$8,500 to CV Strategies (Attachment C). The website for the inaugurated Agency is now [www.highdesertcorridor.org](http://www.highdesertcorridor.org)
- D. Authorize the Executive Director to transfer the existing professional service contracts with the current HDC Joint Powers Authority consisting of AVS Consulting, Inc. (Attachment D) and Transportation Solutions (Attachment E) to the inaugurated HDC Joint Powers Agency to be completed by December 31, 2022.
- E. Authorize the Executive Director contractual signing authority for an amount not to exceed \$79,000.

KB	EB	JC	DD	AN	GR
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

**8. HIGH DESERT INTERCITY HIGH-SPEED RAIL CORRIDOR SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE – Metro Regional Rail staff and Executive Director**

**Recommended Action:** *Receive and file report.*

**By Motion by Director Carrillo and seconded by Director Reyes**

<b>KB</b>	<b>EB</b>	<b>JC</b>	<b>DD</b>	<b>AN</b>	<b>GR</b>
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

**9. HDC JPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Executive Director**

**Recommended Action:** *Receive and file report.*

**By Motion by Vice Chair Becerra and seconded by Director Dorris**

<b>KB</b>	<b>EB</b>	<b>JC</b>	<b>DD</b>	<b>AN</b>	<b>GR</b>
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

**10. HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**11. ADJOURNMENT. Meeting Adjourned At 2:38pm**

**Next HDC JPA Board Meeting is January 12, 2023, 2pm.**



HDC JPA Board Meeting  
January 12, 2023

# Brightline West – The Second Private High-Speed Rail System

Las Vegas to Southern CA trainline has immediate labor, economic, tourism & environmental benefits\*

## Creates Many Jobs

- +40,000 construction jobs<sup>(1)</sup>
- +1,000 permanent jobs
- Support from local and national labor groups

## Boosts the Economy

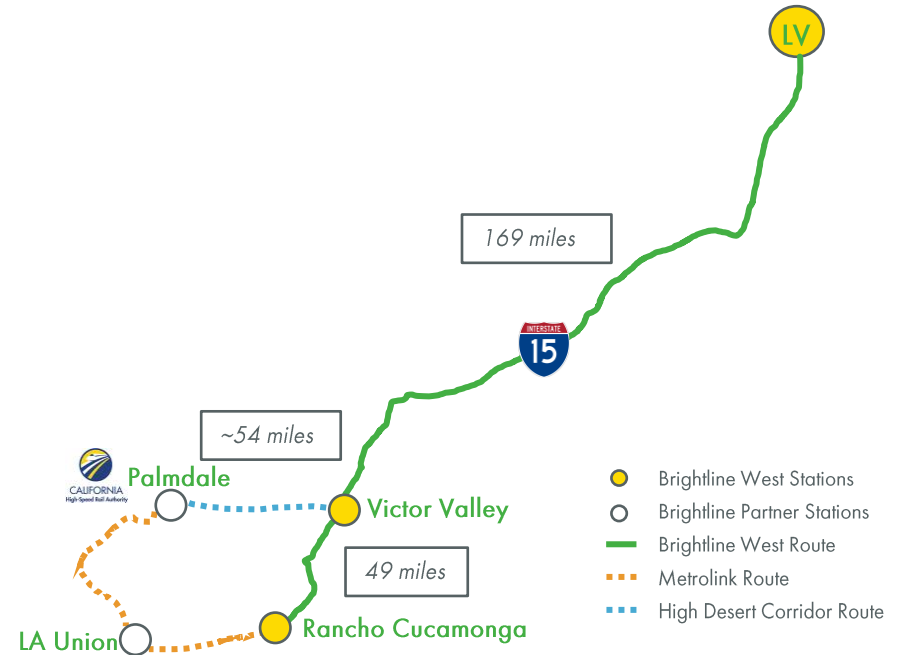
- \$10+ billion economic impact<sup>(2)</sup>
- \$1 billion tax revenues<sup>(3)</sup>
- Spurs development in areas surrounding stations

## Promotes Accessibility

- Supports +10 million trips per year
- ~2 hour & 15 mins. from Las Vegas to Rancho Cucamonga, ~2x faster than driving
- Conveniently located stations

## Improves the Planet

- All-electric emission free high-speed trains
- Removes +3 million cars per year from I-15
- Lower emissions by +400K tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually



\* Project numbers represent projected totals for Brightline West constructed system.

1. Equivalent jobs based on project job hours.
2. Impact inclusive of total construction spend and 10 years of operation.
3. Revenues achieved at the federal, state, and local levels during time frame of construction and 10 years of operation.



# Brightline West – 2022 Progress

- BLW made several key advancements on the permitting and right-of-way for the project in 2022

## Permitting

Component	Estimated Completion
Draft Environmental Assessment to fulfill National Environmental Protection Act (“NEPA”) review published for public comment on Victor Valley to Rancho Cucamonga	October 2022
Projected completion of Environmental Assessment on Victor Valley to Rancho Cucamonga Project	Q1 2023
Projected completion of Section 106 process to fulfill National Historical Preservation Act review for Las Vegas to Victor Valley	Q1 2023
Projected completion of Section 106 process to fulfill National Historical Preservation Act review for Victor Valley to Rancho Cucamonga	Q1 2023

## Right-of-Way

Component	Estimated Completion	Note
Metrolink agreement for integration of San Bernardino Line and BLW service	September 2022	Integration Agreement Signed
I-15 exit in Rancho Cucamonga to Rancho Cucamonga Station	October 2022	ROW Lease Signed
Rancho Cucamonga Station	October 2022	Purchase Agreement Signed

# Brightline West Financing Plan

1

## Private Activity Bonds

- Brightline West currently has a federal allocation for private activity bonds (PABs)
- California and Nevada have shown support for additional PABs allocations if needed to complete the capitalization of the project

2

## Grant under Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (“IIJA”)

- Nevada Department of Transportation, in partnership with Brightline West, is applying for intercity rail funds under the Fed State Partnership program

3

## Remaining funding needs

- Brightline West intends to fill out the remaining capital needs through other debt and equity

## Brightline West Partnership with the HDC JPA

- Brightline West continues to be an active partner with LA Metro and HDC JPA to progress the High Desert Corridor project and broadly support the progression of high-speed rail in this region

### Design

*Offered design advice and documentation to facilitate integration with the BLW system*

- Design criteria
- Rail alignment compatibility
- Systems and electrification
- Station standards

### Financial Modeling

*Provided financial projections based on work done to date*

- O&M costs
- Insurance assumptions
- Ancillary revenue assumptions
- Electricity consumption costs
- ROW lease fees

### Service Development Plan (SDP)

*Assisted and workshopped narrative as HDC prepares for broader distribution of the document including solicitation of feedback from FRA*



**AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 8**  
**High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency**

Date: January 12, 2023

To: Board of Director Members of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency (HDC)

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

Subject: **HDC JPA Executive Director Report**

**Recommended Action:** Receive and File Report

**Fiscal Impact:** Items mentioned in this report may have a future fiscal impact.

1. High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project in Federal NEPA Environmental Process

The HDC JPA submitted the High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project petition for Reevaluation to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Surface Transportation Board (STB) in April 2021. FRA is the Lead Agency for the NEPA environmental process.

The High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project objective is to progress with the FRA NEPA process to receive the Record of Decision (ROD/NOD), Notice of Determination approval in Summer, 2023. With California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) concurrence, this will complete environmental clearance for the high-speed rail project to advance to the next phase of Project Development such as 35% design engineering.

2. Seek Federal and State Grant Opportunities

On December 20, 2022, the FRA released the Corridor Identification and Development Program Notice of Corridor Proposals and Funding Opportunity with applications due to FRA by March 20, 2023. Information can be found at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/12/20/2022-27559/notice-of-solicitation-of-corridor-proposals-and-funding-opportunity-for-the-corridor-identification>

On November 15, 2022, the CalSTA released the Cycle 6 SB1 2022 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) Call for Project Applications with applications due to CalSTA by February 10, 2023. Information can be found at <https://calsta.ca.gov/subject-areas/transit-intercity-rail-capital-prog>.

HDC Agency staff met with both FRA and CalSTA staff to discuss the HDC JPA interest in submitting grant applications for the HDC High Speed Rail Project. Concurrently, HDC Agency staff met with LA Metro Planning staff to request Metro allocate \$8.5M in local matching funds (\$500,000 Federal Corridor ID & \$8M CA TIRCP) from Measure M HDC Expenditure Plan funds for the federal and state HDC grant applications. On January 26, 2023, the Metro Board of Directors is scheduled to review the HDC Measure M \$8.5M local matching funds HDC Agency request.

3. Metro HDC Intercity Rail Service Development Plan & Funding Plan

The Metro HDC Intercity Rail Service Development Plan & Funding Plan is nearing conclusion. The Plan is funded with \$3.5 million of HDC Measure M funds, \$1.375 million in CalSTA 2018 Transit Intercity Rail Capital Plan State grant funds under the Network Integration category, and \$625K from Brightline West (\$250K in cash and \$375K of in-kind contributions). The Plan is expected to be complete by Summer 2023.

#### 4. High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project Map & Project Highlights



2016, High Desert Corridor Multi-purpose corridor receives California CEQA clearance which included a highway and high-speed rail line.

2018, High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority (HDC) supports study of an alternative to the HDC 2016 Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA), Highway Component and decides to focus on first phase as the High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project of the LPA.

2020, Caltrans declares No Build for the highway portion. Metro and San Bernardino County Transportation Authority focuses on widening SR18/SR138 as a continuous 4-lane highway between the Antelope and Victory Valleys.

April 2021, HDC JPA submits Reevaluation petition to Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Surface Transportation Board (STB) to receive NEPA clearance and receive the Rail Project Record of Decision (ROD/NOD).

High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project proposes a 54-mile corridor (Palmdale to Victor Valley) that can be traveled in roughly 30-minutes with two-stations.

One Station in Palmdale and One Station in Victor Valley: Proposed integration with Palmdale California High Speed Rail Station and Brightline West Desert Xpress Victor Valley Station.

The estimated cost of the HDC Rail Project is \$5.54B in year of expenditure dollars, calculated based on the assumed service operations in 2031 and an escalation rate at 3% per year. Final Design and Construction is estimated at \$3.6B of the \$5.54B Project estimate. Environmental clearance could accommodate doubled track. Future design and cost considerations will determine.

Nealy all the 54-mile route of the HDC high-speed rail project is within Equity Communities in the high desert communities of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties.