

San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority Board Meeting November 22, 2013

Attendees: Pedrozo, Cohn, Chisea, Haggerty, Ishida, Johnson, Tatzin, Verboon, Wheeler

Public Comments: Michael Barnbaum commented on how to buy tickets for the next JPA meeting in Stockton which is only reachable from Sacramento by Amtrak Bus.

Update on Hercules, CA Intermodal Transit Center (HITC) was presented by Mr. Ross Chittenden with the CCTA and Mr. William Silva, private consultant. Planning for the Hercules Intermodal Center product began in 2000 with the goal to have the Center serve both the San Joaquin's and the Capitol Corridor as well as anchoring a major mixed use transit oriented development project that will have a population of 3,000. Ground breaking for the HITC was in the summer of 2013 with the goal of having it open and being served by rail in 2018. The project also entails the reconstruction and straightening of 1.5 miles of mainline (UPRR) track, as well as environmentally clearing an additional 1.5 miles of track for future reconstruction. Projected cost is \$25 million with funding from various federal, state and local sources.

Director Cohn led a discussion regarding the SJJPA need for a policy to formally add stations to be served by the San Joaquins. It was noted that such a policy will not formally be adopted until after such time as the transfer agreement from Caltrans management to the SJJPA management occurs.

Ms. Gretchen Brigaman, Branch Chief, Caltrans Division of Rail and Mr. John Preston, Amtrak Marketing provided an overview summary of the results of the San Joaquin Passenger Rail Survey conducted in the summer of 2013. 12 weekday and 12 weekend trains were surveyed with 2,700 surveys collected.

Key findings:

92% of respondents were somewhat to very satisfied with the San Joaquin service.

58% of the respondents were female; 50% 35 years old or younger; 86% traveling for leisure purposes; 72% travel alone; 78% are repeat users; and 56% of respondents cite "ease and convenience" as the key reason for using the San Joaquin's.

"Significantly higher" percentages of the users are Hispanic (30%) as compared to other national Amtrak routes.

Ms. Stacey Mortensen, Executive Director of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Authority and the (Interim) San Joaquin Rail Managing Agency provided an overview of the FY13/14 Amtrak Agreement for the San Joaquins. She noted that

the CTC approved the FY13/14 allocations of subsidy for the San Joaquins at \$10.6M reflecting a 33% increase over the previous fiscal year. She noted that the Pacific Surfliner received 28% increase and the Capitol Corridor a 2% increase. The increases reflect, in part, a reallocation of resources required with the loss of the 30% subsidy Amtrak historically provided for the Pacific Surfliner per the PRIIA Section 209 law now in effect.

Ms. Mortensen also noted that discussions with Caltrans and the CTC resulted in some questions over the allocation of costs for capital equipment statewide, operating cost assumptions, and the assumptions regarding the growth in fare revenues forecasted. Further discussions will occur as the details are reviewed by staff and will be reported to the SJJPA Board at subsequent meetings.

Mr. Dan Leavitt of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Authority and the (Interim) San Joaquin Rail Managing Agency provided an overview of the Draft Chapters of the SJJPA Business Plan which presents the strategy for transferring the San Joaquins to the SJJPA Board control. Six of the 12 chapters were generally presented. More information and additional chapters will be forthcoming.