

San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority Board Meeting March 28, 2014

Attendees: Pedrozo, Blalock, Cohn, Curry, Ishida, Johnson, Perea, Wheeler

Public Comments -- 1) Mr. Ron Jones, TRAC, Merced-Fresno HSR segment may not move forward; consider ARRA funds potentially be transferred to upgrade Sacramento to Bakersfield for SJ Rail to 110 MPH. Upgrade could be done before ARRA deadline; 2) Mr. Nate Knott, Stockton resident, support SJJPA; need improvements and flexibility on fare structure; need improved coordination with local transit; supports HSR in San Joaquin Valley. Advantage of CV train service is to provide intermediate service; and 3) Mr. Mike Barnbaum, Here We Ride, thanked Cohn and others regarding their testimony before State Senate Select Committee on Intercity Rail Passenger Services. Suggested moving next Board meeting to June and to Bakersfield.

SJJPA Bylaws -- Board directed staff at last meeting (January 24, 2014) an action item to change the terms for the Chair and Vice Chairs of the SJJPA from 1-year to 2-years. Board approved the changes as noted.

Draft Business Plan -- A Draft Business Plan (BP) has been completed. Staff noted several key items. Seventh daily roundtrip from Oakland to Bakersfield is fully funded and will be implemented by 2016. For an eighth daily RT, an additional \$112M is required. (Both the 7th & 8th services include connecting bus services.) Additional long-term (noted as within the next few years) improvements are also noted including additional service on new track on the UPRR Fresno Subdivision, or on an adjacent new corridor. Cohn noted no studies have been done and funding should be identified to conduct studies to improve/increase service to Sacramento. Staff concurred. Maintenance facility question came up and the decisions rest for now with Caltrans and will shift to the SJJPA. Question regarding reducing Amtrak costs, which has been identified as a key goal of the SJJPA to reduce costs.

Action Plan -- Key issues will be: 1) negotiating with Amtrak to reduce costs; 2) work on schedule improvements for better customer service; 3) work with various state and rail providers to improve services and schedules through developing performance measures.

Annual Funding Requirement -- A primary function of the SJJPA is to request the funding annually for funding. Negotiations are underway now for FY14/15 and will be agreed upon between State and Amtrak, but the SJJPA is not now party to these negotiations. FY14/15 administrative costs are estimated to be \$1.3M. Caltrans expects the costs for maintaining existing services to go up by about \$15M next year due mainly to increased costs in equipment leases. Board expressed comments on the SJJPA not being at the table in these negotiations.

Mr. Cohn noted that the first third of this year's ridership reflects an actual drop in ridership.

Review of Remaining Business Plan Chapters

Chapter 15 -- Other/Future Services -- 1) Noted highest priority is deployment of seventh RT between Oakland and Bakersfield but operating funds are not available at this time. Mid-corridor starts (Merced) appears to be an optimum cost/benefit strategy; not in upcoming FY budget, but following FY; 2) Improvements to Sacramento service identified as a key improvement needed and funding is necessary to move this forward. Station candidates include 65th Street and Elk Grove; 3) Also discussed concept to extend service to Redding.

Chapter 16 -- Roles & Responsibilities -- 1) Development of Statewide Rail Plan, grants, etc. remain the responsibility of the State Division of Rail and will continue working relationship between DOR and SJJPA.

SJ Rolling Stock Update -- 3 of the 4 Comet Cars have been delivered, but no estimate on final acceptance. As previously discussed with the SJJPA Board, the SJJPA staff intends to work with Caltrans to review the value of these cars and whether or not they should be deployed. And if so, ensure they are a temporary deployment until the new cars now under development are deployed.

Operations Update -- 1) On-time performance is in the 82% year-to-date; 2) Ridership is at 477.4K, which is down 1.4% from last year; 3) Capitol Corridor is down 4.1% and the Pacific Surfliner is down 0.6%; 4) Revenue is down 5.4% YTD; 5) Passenger comments on the Comet Cars are mixed -- some access issues, but the seating etc. is comfortable.

CA Intercity Passenger Rail Leadership -- Comprised of SJJPA, Capitol Corridor, and Pacific Surfliner, etc. Senate Select Committee session week of March 18th was successful and comments were made by Board Members in support of the service. Lobbying was done by members including Cohn on March 18th and 19th. State Assembly is moving in developing a Select Committee for Passenger Rail; 3) Second Annual Rail Summit is April 2-3 in Los Angeles, and Chair Perea and Executive Director Mortensen will be speaking.

Interagency Transfer Agreement (ITA) -- Agreement is to have the ITA complete and signed by end of 2014 (not June 2014 as previously agreed-to). This requires Caltrans to do additional work and the signals suggest this is acceptable; members in the Legislature are supportive of applying pressure to Caltrans if any "slippage" appears to be occurring. This schedule will allow the SJJPA to get out into the communities and do outreach (Sacramento area looking at May 2014). Board agreed to change the Business Plan to reflect the transfer from June to December.

Staff recommended moving the next Board meeting to Sacramento, June 27 at 2 PM (and foregoes the May and July meetings). Board approved modifying the schedule and next meeting as noted above.

TIGER Grant -- SJJPA is providing Letters of Support including: 1) Elk Grove for a Station; 2) City of Hercules for a new station on the Capitol Corridor; and 3) by SJJPA for track extension to connect the Maintenance Facility and improve the safety/access at the Cabral Station in Stockton.

Admin Matters -- 1) Comments on Draft Business Plan being assessed; 2) Request from Bakersfield to add that community to the public outreach effort; 3) Form 700's are due; 4) Kudos to SJJPA Staff for the efforts in successful meeting with Senate Select Committee and follow-on Lobbying efforts.

Other -- 1) Request to identify a location for public outreach in Sacramento and desire to have RT Marketing assist in the public outreach effort.