

San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority Board Meeting January 24, 2014

Attendees: Pedrozzo (Chair/MCAG), Blalock (Alameda Co.), Chiesa (STANCOG), Harris (SJRRRC), Hume (SacRT), Ishida (Tulare COG), Tatzin (CCTA)

Public Comments: The Board Meeting began at 12:30 PM and following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Vice Mayor of Stockton welcomed everyone. Michael Barmbaum provided some comments and suggestions on the schedule of upcoming meetings.

Next SJJPA Meeting scheduled for March 28, 2014 in the City of Madera.

Election of Officers: A unanimous vote to maintain the existing Officers (Pedrozo as Chair and Cohn & Perea as Vice-Chairs). The Board requested Staff to review the Bylaws and determine the actions necessary to change annual elections to a 2-year Board election cycle (similar to the Capitol Corridor JPA).

Update on Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) Service – ACE has experienced 20% year-over-year growth in ridership. Farebox recovery is at 56%. A Draft EIR will be released in late spring 2015 for long-term improvements with a Final EIR in February 2016. Pending funding, the improvements will increase operating speeds, increase the number of trains serving the Bay Area, and provide direct service to Merced by 2022.

San Joaquin Service Performance – A representative of Amtrak provided an update on service. Year-to-date ridership is about the same as last year; on-time performance is at 80% year to date and has been affected by the introduction of the Comet Cars which requires assistance (operating time loss) and additional staff person for some individuals to access the cars. (See also item below on Rolling Stock Update.)

Draft Chapters of the SJJPA Business Plan – As required by the SJJPA enabling legislation and for the Inter-Agency Transfer Agreement of service from Caltrans DOR to the SJJPA, a Business Plan is under development and will be adopted by the SJJPA later this year. Draft versions of 13 of the 19 chapters have been prepared and are being reviewed by RT Staff. The remaining chapters will be prepared and reviewed at the March Board meeting with adoption in the summer of 2014. The draft chapters can be found on-line at: <http://www.acerail.com/About/Regional-Governance-for-San-Joaquin-Rail-Service/Draft-Business-Plan>

Rolling Stock Update – Caltrans DOR purchased and refurbished a number of older Comet Cars and deployed a first trainset on the San Joaquins as a short-term strategy to add seat capacity. A second set of Comet Cars will be introduced in February 2014. Caltrans DOR intends to replace these vehicles with new railcars, now under construction, in 2016. The Comet Cars require manual operation of the doors by staff and assistance for

mobility impaired individuals – both activities have slowed the operation and reduced the on-time performance of the San Joaquin service.

CA Intercity Passenger Rail Leadership Coalition – The CA State Senate Select Committee for Passenger Rail was established and is chaired by State Senator Jackson (Santa Barbara) and consists of 7 additional members, 3 of which represent the SJJPA geographically (DeSaulnier, East Bay; and Canella and Galgiani, San Joaquin Valley). A March 1st meeting in Sacramento will be held in coordination with other Senate rail-related activities. RT will be notified of specifics in the near future.

Station Area Development Grant Programs – The 3rd and final round of Sustainable Communities Planning Grants is being released by the Strategic Growth Council (SGC). RT Staff are assessing the opportunities for grants to assist in the planning of station areas on the northern end of the San Joaquin corridor.

Negotiations Between Amtrak and Caltrans DOR for FY15 Operating – Negotiations are underway. The SJJPA and its Managing Agency are not part of the negotiations and will be apprised as the negotiations move forward.

The SJJPA Board meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM.