

**San Joaquin Regional Rail JPA Board Meeting  
Minutes of Meeting  
March 27, 2015**

The San Joaquin Regional Rail JPA met in Fresno, CA on March 27, 2015 from 1 PM to 3 PM. The following transpired:

1. **Attendees** – Chair Pedrozo (Merced Co.), Vice-Chair Perea (Fresno Co.), Tatzin (Contra Costa Co.), Chiesa (Stanislaus Co.), Ishida (Tulare Co.), Johnson (San Joaquin Co.), Verboon (Kings co.). Absentees – Hume/Nottoli (Sacramento RT), Haggerty (Alameda Co.), and Rogers (Madera Co.)
2. **Presentation by Fresno COG re: Expansion of YARTS** – Fresno COG presented a \$3.1M CMAQ-funded expansion of YARTS to serve Yosemite Park. First program will provide service from Fresno to Yosemite N.P. starting 5/15/15 and operate 5 runs/day, 365 days per year. Cost of the ticket will be \$30 and includes entry fee into the Park. The second service will be from Fresno/Sanger to Kings Canyon N.P. and operate May to September with 4 runs/day with the cost of the ticket at \$15 includes entry fee into the Park. Service will be provided with 18-passenger vans.
3. **Public Comments** – Mike Barnbaum and Nate Knott (San Joaquin Transit) provided comments on improving service and supporting HSR.
4. **Next Board Meeting** – Meeting date was moved from Memorial Day weekend to Friday, May 15 at 12:30 start in Stockton.
5. **Letters of Support for SCS/AHSC Grants** – Board authorized sending letters for TOD projects in Bakersfield, Merced and Stockton for AHSC applications that were shortlisted.
6. **TIRCP Grants** – Board authorized SJJPA to submit grant applications for a \$33.5M track project to eliminate freight layovers adjacent to an economically disadvantaged community (and spewing emissions into the community). Also for a “fare subsidy program” for low income riders and a “public outreach campaign” for the San Joaquin’s. TIRCP grants are due April 10.
7. **Interagency Transfer Agreement** – Agreement is supposed to be in place by June 30, 2015 and is subject to the action of the Secretary of CalSTA. The process is moving along, albeit slowly. A draft transfer agreement is expected to have final comments by March 31 and a final version submitted to CalSTA by May 30.
8. **San Joaquin Rolling Stock & Operations** – Ridership is down 2.3% from projections; on-time performance was at 85% in January, but has dropped to 66% in March due to track repairs. The analysis of the Comet Cars is still underway.
9. **Intercity Passenger Rail Leadership Coalition** – ON May 14 at 10 AM in Room 4202 of the Capitol there will be a joint hearing on passenger rail funding in CA. There will be a second hearing (Date TBD) in Modesto with US Representative Jeff Denham attending; focus will be on San Joaquin’s and ACE services.

- 10. Letter to State re: Fare Policy** – Current state fare policy is to increase rider fares when the capacity hits 60% and then increase. Much discussion and agreed to request an assessment of this as the increasing fares are driving down ridership and higher threshold might net more total revenue for the service.
- 11. Intercity Passenger Rail Leadership Coalition** – On May 14 at 10 AM in Room 4202 of the Capitol there will be a joint hearing on passenger rail funding in CA. There will be a second hearing (Date TBD) in Modesto with US Representative Jeff Denham attending; focus will be on San Joaquin's and ACE services.
- 12. Administrative Matters** – The Board noted the two new members (Hume replacing Cohn and Nottoli as the Alternate).
- 13. Follow-Up Matter/Merced to Sacramento Segment** – The HSRA has been approached about the \$30-35M that was appropriated by the Legislature for the planning, environmental clearance and design of improvements in the Merced to Sacramento corridor. This could include 65<sup>th</sup> Street and Elk Grove stations, as well as double tracking south of Elk Grove and other projects in our region. Assuming the JPA Transfer Agreement occurs by or about 6/30/15, the SJJPA will begin a hard push to get the funding moving from the HSRA to the SJJPA and get a contractor on board. As a key member of the SJJPA, RT should be involved in this process moving forward.