

**San Joaquin Regional Rail JPA Board Meeting**  
**Minutes of May 2016 Meeting**  
**May 27, 2016**

The San Joaquin Regional Rail JPA met in Merced, CA on May 27, 2016 from 1:30 PM to 3:45 PM. The following transpired:

1. **Attendees** – Chair Pedrozo (Merced Co.), Vice-Chair Perea (Fresno Co.), Tatzin (Contra Costa Co.), Hume (Elk Grove/RT), Chisea, (Stanislaus Co.), Blalock (Alternate-Alameda Co./BART), Ishida (Tulare Co.), Johnson (San Joaquin Co.), Verboon (Kings Co.), and new member Brent Frazier (Madera Co.)
2. **Consent Calendar** – Next SJJPA Board Mtg is scheduled for July 22 and (tentatively) to be held in Oakland.
3. **Public Comments** – 3 comments were made: 1). An advocate for continued bus service to serve the North Coast area; 2). A comment on the fare structure and improved round-trip pricing would increase ridership; and 3). A question regarding the potential placement of the Bakersfield Station on the north side of the city.
4. **An Action to Extend the Agreement Between the SJJPA and the SJRRC for Managing Agency Services** – The initial agreement for a Managing Agency of the San Joaquin rail service was with the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRC, who also manage the ACE rail service). The initial contract was for 3 years beginning in September 2013. The Board had two options: 1) Negotiate and extend the existing contract for another 3-year period with the SJRRC; or 2) Release an RFP for a new managing agency selection process. Several members of the Board and the public spoke in support of the SJRRC continuing to manage the service. The Board voted 10-0 to direct the Chair to negotiate a new 3-year contract with the SJRRC.
5. **An Action to Approve a Resolution to Execute Any and All Documents Associated with the Master Fund Transfer Agreement for Minor Capital Improvement Project Funds** -- As part of the original Interagency Transfer Agreement transferring the San Joaquin rail service from Caltrans to the SJJPA, the State of CA has a 3-year agreement to fund a Minor Capital Project Funding program totaling \$1.5M (\$500K annually) effective from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018 for minor improvements. Under this agreement, the 2015 funds would be encumbered in FY2016 and the remaining funds would be encumbered in the following fiscal year. The Board voted 10-0 to direct the Executive Director of the SJJPA to execute the documents necessary for the funds transfer.
6. **An Action to Approve a Resolution to Execute Any and All Grant Applications, Agreements, Certifications and Assurances Necessary to Obtain Funding Under the California Transit Security Grant Program for the San Joaquins** – The San Joaquin Corridor (staff) received notification from Caltrans that \$6.4M in unexpended Proposition 1B funds were available for “security improvements” along the rail corridor(s). Staff noted that improvements such as fencing, cameras, lighting, positive train control (PTC), and accessibility improvements were candidate

projects for the funding. Staff will bring a list of projects and costs to the next Board meeting for consideration. Board members commented on the need especially for fencing, and PTC in particular, and expressed concern on the slowness of the PTC implementation, and the fact that there is only one national provider of the hardware for PTC. Staff noted that Amtrak has stated that the PTC will be implemented by the end of FY17. The Board voted 10-0 to authorize the action.

- 7. An Action to Approve a SJJPA Letter to the CA High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) and CalSTA Regarding the CHSRA 2016 Business Plan** – The CHSRA is required to adopt a Business Plan every two years. The initial Draft Plan released by the CHSRA was of significant concern to the SJJPA as it proposed to change the focus of the next phase of HSR implementation from the Central Valley to So. CA. RT, along with a large number of other member agencies, local communities, and state representatives wrote letters requesting significant changes to the Draft Plan.

On April 28, 2016, a revised Plan was adopted. The adopted CHSRA 2016 Business Plan accomplished five significant changes over the Draft Plan: 1) Greater emphasis on implementing “blended” service improvements in the corridor as an initial step towards HSR; 2) Inclusion of Merced as part of the Initial Operating Segment of HSR; 3) Addition of a new Madera Station as a HSR station providing connectivity between HSR and the San Joaquins; 4) A commitment to work with the SJJPA to “pursue Phase 2 and the Altamont Corridor Planning efforts...”; and 5) Include near-term San Joaquin service improvements that provide connectivity to HSR and work towards releasing the \$50M previously allocated for improvements in the San Joaquin corridor.

The Board made several positive comments on the new/revised CHSRA Business Plan and commended the various agencies (including RT) who voiced concerns on the Draft Plan. It was noted that the CHSRA did not expect the united concerns raised by the partners in the Central Valley and this united perspective was instrumental in getting the Plan modified. The Board voted 10-0 to send a letter to the CHSRA and CalSTA reaffirming support for the revised Plan and expressing the desire to work together on future planning efforts.

- 8. Approve Revisions to the SJJPA Marketing and Outreach Plan for FY15/16** – Staff requested changes to the previously-adopted “Marketing and Outreach Plan” for the San Joaquins that reallocated unused funds to better reflect the needs of the marketing and outreach services moving forward. The Board approved the action on a 10-0 vote.
- 9. Information Item Update on the Amtrak Contract** – The annual operating contract with Amtrak is “close” to being finalized and should be signed by mid-June according to the Executive Director. As of that time, the SJJPA will take over full oversight of the Amtrak Operating Contract for the San Joaquins. Prior to this, CalSTA and a joint CalSTA/SJJPA operating arrangement has been in place.
- 10. Update on the 7<sup>th</sup> Daily Round Trip Deployment for the San Joaquins** – A June 20<sup>th</sup> start date for the 7<sup>th</sup> Daily Round Trip service on the San Joaquins between Bakersfield and the Bay Area will occur. This will be the first service addition in 12

years and the first service addition to Oakland in 24 years for the San Joaquins. This item was presented for information only.

- 11. Marketing and Outreach Material and Advertising** – The key marketing and outreach materials were presented which include banners, brochures, specific promotions and other materials to assist in building the San Joaquins image.
- 12., 13., 14., 15. Updates from the Northern San Joaquin Valley, Central San Joaquin Valley, and Kern County Marketing and Outreach Teams (respectively) and on Social Media** – Members of each of the Teams provided overviews of the marketing and outreach efforts that they have been conducting using a variety of events, social media and advertising to expand the San Joaquins image in the Central Valley. Events have ranged from having Booths at smaller affairs to County Fairs with attendance in the 10's of thousands. Each of the teams have developed coordinated materials, give aways, and so forth and staffed events to help sell the product. Social media has been expanding in terms of “Likes” and information hits and updates for service. It is expected that these marketing expansions will begin to result in increasing ridership in the next six months as potential customers become more familiar with the San Joaquins service and benefits for travelers.
- 16. San Joaquins Operations Update** – Staff provided a brief overview of the San Joaquins operations: 1) On-Time Performance has improved from 61% a year ago to over 85% in the last quarter. This is attributed to improved coordination with Amtrak and the BNSF and the completion of several projects along the corridor; 2) Ridership remains down by 5.2% compared to last year. This is compared to the CCJPA which has had a 5.4% increase and the Surfliner which has had a 2.1% increase over last year. Staff noted that the expectation is that improved on-time performance and marketing, along with the 7<sup>th</sup> train will result in increased ridership within the next 6 months. Staff also noted that the 5.2% decrease in ridership is approximately 22 passenger per train on average.
- 17. Administrative Matters/Correspondence** – Staff noted that Congressman Jim Costa (16<sup>th</sup> District) was present and wished to address the Board. Congressman Costa thanked the Board for their efforts and expressed his continued support for the service and rail infrastructure improvements in the Central Valley noting the economic benefits that the San Joaquins and future High Speed Rail can and will bring to the residents of the Central Valley.
- 18. Board Member Comments** -- Comments were limited as time was short. Chair Pedrozo did note that the ability to communicate with passengers when there is an event that slows or stops service remains a large deterrent for users who have schedules to meet and are left without any information waiting for a train or on a train not moving. He noted that this needs to be improved upon.
- 19.** The SJJPA Board meeting adjourned at approximately 3:45 pm.
- 20.** The next Board meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2016 in Oakland; potentially at Jack London Square.