

**San Joaquin Regional Rail JPA Board Meeting  
Minutes of May 2017 Meeting  
May 26, 2017**

The San Joaquin Regional Rail JPA met in Fresno, CA on May 26, 2017 from 1:00 PM to 3:02 p.m. The following transpired:

**1. Attendees** – Chair Chisea (Stanislaus Co.), Vice-Chair Tatzin (Contra Costa Co.), Nottoli (Sac Co/RT), Espinoza, (Merced Co.), Blalock (Alameda Co.), Johnson (San Joaquin Co./Lodi), Verboon (Kings Co.), Frazier (Madera Co.), Quintero (Fresno Co.), and Shuklian (Tulare Co.)

**2. Consent Calendar** – Approved 10-0

Next SJJPA Board Mtg is scheduled for July 28, 2017 and to be held in Sacramento.

Item 2.5 a Resolution to Amend Article 7.6 of the Bylaws granting the Chair sole discretion to allow Board Member participation via teleconference where 2/3's vote is required.

**3. Public Comments** –

Mr. Doug Kerr of RailPAC provided comments on the proposed Federal Budget noting that with the proposed ending of federal funding for passenger rail, the state railroads including the San Joaquins will see an increase in fixed costs (specifically maintenance facility in Oakland) that are not budgeted. He also noted that Congress needs to be made aware of this.

Mr. Michael Barnbaum discussed SB477 that proposes to reduce the required voter approval for a general transportation local proposal to 55%. He also discussed a "rider audit" he completed in spring 2017 and has passed a full report on to Amtrak and the SJJPA. Specifically he noted the issues with the change in Daylight Savings Time and schedule adherence noting some stations in southern California were bypassed on that Sunday morning by Amtrak buses.

**4. Recognition of SJJPA Vice-Chair Henry Perea** – Retired Fresno County Supervisor Perea was recognized and honored for his service as the first Vice-Chair of the SJJPA and his efforts to get the SJJPA started.

**5. April 10 San Joaquins "Safety Event" in Fresno** – An overview of the joint effort of the UPRR, BNRR, SJJPA, Amtrak, CHP and local law enforcement consisting of 25 officers and staff that conducted an all-day event that garnered full media attention, developed tools for local agencies to coordinate safety and security issues, identified needs for Amtrak to update its Emergency Response Plans, and stepped up the "higher visibility" of security on trains and at stations. Twenty-four violations were issued focused on at-grade automobile crossing violations (crossing with gates down) and encampments along the rail ROW.

- 6. Approve Resolution Adopting the Final 2017 Business Plan and Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute Any and All Documents Associated with the Master Fund Transfer Agreement Supplements for Ops, Admin and Marketing Budgets for FY 2017/18** – Mr. Dan Leavitt of the SJJPA provided an update of the Plan. He noted a draft version was approved at the last Board meeting, was then submitted to CalSTA for review and concurrence and then was finalized based on funding changes. Key changes from the draft included adding text regarding the passage of SB1 and the potential to compete for \$20M/year for “Intercity Rail”, \$245M/year for TIRCP funding (Cap & Trade) and \$236M one-time repayment. Also, the opportunity to compete for \$250M for “congested corridors” funding for rail cars and other improvements. He noted that the goal of the 2017 Business Plan is to add an 8<sup>th</sup> roundtrip train and begin early morning service to Sacramento in 2017/18 and that “statewide ticketing” to provide a seamless fare connection between services is a goal. Mr. Leavitt also noted that the agreements between Amtrak and SJJPA are under negotiation and final agreements will be presented to the SJJPA Board at the September meeting to take effect on October 1, 2017. The Board passed the Plan 10-0.
- 7. Morning Express Service Update** – Mr. Brian Schmidt presented an update on the Morning Express Service (MES). The goal is to begin this service in January 2018, thereby making it more competitive to serve Sacramento with commute service from the Central Valley. Safety & Security funding (OES) from 2015/16 will be used to fund the changes. The northbound train would depart Fresno at 4:25 a.m. and arrive at the Sacramento Valley Station at 7:41 a.m. Southbound train would leave Sacramento at approximately 5:30 p.m. A new layover facility in Fresno and expansion of some parking at the Merced, Modesto, and Turlock/Denair stations in the Central Valley are part of the implementation. The cost of the service is estimated to be \$1.75M.

Comments were made by Mr. Barnbaum noting the longer-term opportunities for the coordination of other regional rail providers and the expansion of service.
- 8. Resolution Approving Revisions to the Minor Capital and Safety and Security Project List** – The Board approved 10-0 a “List of Capital Projects” including minor improvements less than \$250,000 each including the improvements for the Morning Express Service.
- 9. San Joaquins Operations Update** – Mr. Brian Schmidt provided an update of the San Joaquins operations. On-Time Performance was up to over 80% (compared to 61% in February) reflecting the improvement in weather and reduction in weather-related delays. The Pacific Surfliner was at 72% and the Capitol Corridor at 91% On-Time. April 2017 ridership was up over 20% when compared to April 2016 and ticket revenues are up 22.5% compared to April 2016. Much of this change has to do with when college Spring breaks are scheduled and students traveling to/from locations.
- 10. Update on Planning for Madera Station Relocation** – Mr. Leavitt provided an update on the Madera Station. The existing station is small and lacks parking, transit connectivity and adjacent TOD potential; and no willingness in the state to invest in the site. A site located to the south has potential with both regional connectivity and TOD integration; site is on “Avenue 12” and would also serve North Fresno and Clovis. Constructing a new station site would require a TIRCP grant award. Staff will be reporting back to the Board on the options, costs, and next steps.

- 11. Transit Transfer Program Update** – Mr. Jordan Peterson presented an update on implementing a Transit Transfer program similar to the existing programs that the Surfliner and Capitol Corridor have in place. The transfer program would be between local transit providers and the SJJPA as between 52% and 62% of the SJJPA riders access the service by being dropped off/picked up and there is potential for improved transit connectivity. Staff will report back on which parties are interested, costs, benefits, etc.
- 12. Marketing and Outreach Update** – Mr. David Lipari provided the Board with a marketing update. Efforts have been focused on “May is Bike Month”, a “Yosemite National Park Connection”, and programs including Friends & Family, Summer Travel, Bus Decals, and grassroots efforts for Kids 'n' Trains, Stakeholder Trips, and standard group trips. Three different bus decals were presented in the meeting with "YOUR TRAIN CONNECTION" common across all three. Emphasis has been on social media and published materials and the messages will be freshened up over the next few months.
- 13. Food Service Update** – Mr. Lipari provided an update on the food service on the San Joaquins. He noted that food sales and revenues were up for the first 3 months of 2017 compared to 2016. He noted a recent study that 26% of the San Joaquin passengers were “unaware of the Café Car”. Staff is targeting the end of June to “refresh” the menu and add more local (San Joaquin Valley) products, craft beers, and potentially providing samples to passengers.
- 14. Executive Director’s Report & SB 1 Update** – It was noted that the next Board Meeting will focus on the new Sacramento services and the potential Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) grant opportunities and requests. TIRCP grants are likely due in the fall of 2017.
- 15. Board Comments** – No Board comments, other than the train was arriving at 3:22 PM, were made and the meeting adjourned at 3:02 PM.
- 16.** The next Board meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2017 in Sacramento and the time (AM or PM) is still to be determined.