San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SSJPA) Meeting Minutes September 22, 2017

The SJJPA voted unanimously to approve the Amtrak Contract and unanimously approved the revised schedule for January 8, 2018 which includes the Morning Express Service to Sacramento. This service will have one northbound train to Sacramento leaving early from Fresno at 4:25 a.m., and arriving at Sacramento Intermodal Station at 7:41 a.m. The schedule is being adjusted so that passengers from the San Joaquin Valley can do a half-day in Sacramento in the morning, a half-day in the afternoon, or a full day in Sacramento. During the weekends the first train to Sacramento will leave about an hour later and arrive in Sacramento about 8:40 a.m.

A stakeholder group from Bakersfield presented a proposal to have the San Joaquins run express service from Bakersfield to Sacramento. The Board provided direction for this to be looked at as a possibility for the next Business Plan, but that it is really too late to make significant changes for the January 8, 2018 schedule.

The SJJPA also approved a \$500,000 advertising contract to lead the marketing campaign to promote the morning express service to Sacramento. Staff presented the proposed plan for the advertising campaign which will be done over a 4 month period and will be in addition to the additional grass-roots marketing being done to promote the Amtrak San Joaquins service. The Train Riders Association of California opposed the schedule change.