



STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 12, 2021
TO: Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors
FROM: Henry Li, General Manager/CEO
SUBJ: GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

No Recommendation — For Information Only.

Major Project Updates

Oral Presentation

San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority – Meeting Summary of March 26, 2021

Written report attached.

SacRT Meeting Calendar

Regional Transit Board Meeting

April 26, 2021
SacRT Auditorium / Webconference
5:30 P.M

Quarterly Retirement Board Meeting

June 9, 2021
SacRT Auditorium / Webconference
9:00 A.M.

Mobility Advisory Council Meeting

May 6, 2021
SacRT Auditorium / Webconference
2:30 P.M.



STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 12, 2021
TO: Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors
FROM: James Drake, Principal Planner
SUBJ: SAN JOAQUIN JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY MEETING SUMMARY OF MARCH 26, 2021

RECOMMENDATION

No Recommendation — For Information Only.

The Board of Directors of the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority met on Friday, March 26, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. The meeting was led by new Board Chair Pat Hume, representing both City of Elk Grove and SacRT.

Mike Barnbaum made a public comment mentioning that Southwest Airlines will be offering new service in April to Las Vegas from Fresno and Santa Barbara, which may compete with San Joaquin thruway service.

Outgoing Board Chair Vito Chiesa was recognized for his service on the Board and as the past chair.

The Board approved Item 5, an amendment to the Interagency Transfer Agreement (ITA) between Caltrans and SJJPA. The amendment would transfer to SJJPA duty to maintain new Siemens Venture cars. SJJPA intends to contract said maintenance to San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC). The ITA dates back to 2005 and is the legal framework for the original transfer of management and administration of the San Joaquin service from Caltrans to the JPA, and has been amended once. It is currently in force through 2022.

The Board approved Item 6, authorizing the Chair to approve a short-term extension of the JPA's service agreement with Amtrak. Uncertainty stemming primarily from COVID has made a short-term extension on substantially the same terms the most desirable path forward for the time being.

Staff reviewed comments and approved the JPA's Draft 2021 Business Plan, including a reversal of prior plans for a new direct train from Bakersfield to Sacramento. The service will instead require a transfer at Stockton:

As part of SJJPA's 2018 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) award, the San Joaquin Intercity Rail Service was approved and funded for an 8th and 9th Round Trips. Staff will be recommending as part of the Business Plan approval a change in the

service recommendation which previously called for one of the five Bakersfield-Oakland daily roundtrips to be redirected to Sacramento with a connecting train in Stockton that would have gone to Oakland. Based on experiences over the last several years and the potential for ridership and revenue impacts of re-routing one of the direct Oakland trains, SJJPA staff is recommending maintaining the five Bakersfield-Oakland roundtrips and having a connecting train provide service to Sacramento instead. This change would require additional storage tracks at Stockton's San Joaquin St. Station to allow this operationally, funding of which will be requested in future grant funding applications.

Mike Barnbaum made a public comment recommending additional train service to Sacramento.

Staff presented results of an inspection of thruway bus stop signage, and briefed the Board on a solicitation to upgrade 140 bus stop signs that are outdated or worn. The Board approved a contract for \$113,888 to Group Manufacturing Services, Inc. for new display cases.

Staff provided an update on legislation and ridership. The Federal relief bill of March will include \$11-14 million for SJJPA, out of \$47 million total for the three California state-sponsored intercity rail programs. This is out of \$175 million nation-wide for all state-sponsored intercity rail service. The JPA and similar carriers have been working to restore cash payment at staffed stations and from conductors, which accounts for 15 percent of fare revenue, and is a preferred option for un-banked customers. Ridership the past three months has been around 23,000 per month, down about 68 percent year-over-year, and also down from pre-holiday levels which were more around 28,000, but which appear to have declined following the holiday surge in COVID-19 cases. San Joaquin ridership is 85 percent leisure, as noted by staff, which makes it less vulnerable to the Work-From-Home trends that have severely reduced commuter use of transit.

Staff presented its "Station Love" program, under which the staff of the JPA are all assigned to 1-4 stations, and are responsible for visiting and inspecting the stations at least quarterly.

Doug Kerr of RailPAC spoke to complement the agency on 90% on-time performance in January.

Executive Director Stacey Mortensen provided a report. Maintenance needs for San Joaquin and ACE have led to many additions to plant and facilities and introduced new staff members Tamika Smith and Ty Kiunke. Amtrak is looking to increase its passenger capacity limits to 100 percent in May. Currently, they are at 50 percent.

Next meeting is May 21 at 9:00 am. Meeting adjourned at 10:31 am.