



# STAFF REPORT

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**DATE:** August 23, 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 – July 23, 2021 (Hume)**

Written Report

## SacRT Meeting Calendar

### **Regional Transit Board Meeting**

September 13, 2021  
SacRT Auditorium / Webconference  
5:30 P.M

### **Quarterly Retirement Board Meeting**

September 21, 2021  
SacRT Auditorium / Webconference  
9:00 A.M.

### **Mobility Advisory Council Meeting**

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



## STAFF REPORT

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**DATE:** August 23, 2021

**TO:** Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors

**FROM:** James Drake, Principal Planner

**SUBJ:** SAN JOAQUIN JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY MEETING SUMMARY OF JULY 23, 2021

### RECOMMENDATION

No Recommendation — For Information Only.

The San Joaquin JPA Board of Directors met on July 23, 2021, for their regular meeting, with Chair Pat Hume calling the meeting to order at 9:00 am and establishing a quorum.

Item 2, the consent calendar, was passed, including minutes, next board meeting location, operating expense report, a Washington update, and other administrative items.

#### Item 3 – Public Comments

Doug Kerr, Rail Passenger Association of California - Unhappy that Surfliner eliminated printed timetables. Appreciated that San Joaquins still provide printed timetables.

The Board passed the following action items:

- Item 4 - Establishing a pre-qualified on-call consultant list for the Valley Rail project, for Merced and Madera counties.
- Item 5 – Approving contracts with O'Dell Engineering at \$371,320 and with Pennino Management for \$162,750 for design and engineering support of the Merced Station parking lot.
- Item 6 - A contract with Lockwood, Andrews, & Newman for \$408,773 for rail engineering for the Madera Station relocation. The station is intended to be moved from the north end of town to the east end, close to Madera Community College, and the site will also be a High Speed Rail location.
- Item 7 – A \$700,000 contract with Amtrak to design and construct a video surveillance system.
- Item 8 – A two-year contract amendment with Jeffrey Scott Agency for \$571,970 for advertising services.

#### Item 9 – Thruway Bus Update

Paul Herman provided an informational update on the San Joaquin thruway bus network, which has become one of the largest in the country, serving over 100 communities. A presentation was made at a previous meeting, identifying some of the lesser-used stations and trips.

- Route 1A – Bakersfield/Los Angeles/San Diego: Maintain existing levels and expand with additional trains, as they are returned to service
- Route 1B – Bakersfield/Los Angeles/Long Beach/San Pedro: Currently truncated at LA Union Station; recommended keeping the route truncated
- Route 1C – Bakersfield/Van Nuys/West LA: Staff will bring back recommendations to change stops in the Los Angeles basin
- Route 3 – Sacramento/Chico/Redding: Staff is working with Shasta RTA to create intercity bus service, which would replace the thruway bus service
- Route 6 – Stockton/Dublin/Pleasanton/San Jose: Route is cut back right now; recommended to keep at existing levels, and introduce a new Route 40 with an alternative route through Los Banos
- Route 7 – North Bay to Arcata: Several stops currently eliminated
- Route 9 – Bakersfield/Las Vegas: No changes
- Route 10 – Bakersfield/Oxnard/Santa Barbara: No changes
- Route 12 – Bakersfield/Lancaster/Victorville: Route is suspended for pandemic; staff recommends keeping it suspended, due to it running at a loss; pre-COVID, costs were over \$820,263, but generating only about \$537,886 annually
- Route 18 – Visalia/Hanford/San Luis Obispo/Santa Maria – Route may be discontinued unless JPA decides to subsidize it, or finds a local funding partner
- Route 19 – Bakersfield/Pasadena/Riverside/San Bernadino – Ridership beyond San Bernadino was very low; staff recommending truncation of service, to end at San Bernadino
- Route 34 – Stockton/Oakland/San Francisco – Route is currently suspended due to connecting Sacramento-bound San Joaquin trains being suspended
- Route 99 – Emeryville/San Francisco – No changes recommended

Routes 9, 10, and 18 are operated by virtue of an interlining service agreement, whereby the operating bus contractor covers operating costs in exchange for a portion of the fare revenue, which the JPA has viewed as a favorable arrangement.

#### Public Comments:

Mike Barnbaum - Recommends Route 3 be truncated at Chico State University rather than eliminated entirely for the future Salmon Runner bus. Recommended a Route 7 stop at Sonoma State University. Recommends combining Routes 9 and 10 into one route. Recommended combining Route 99 with AC Transit local bus service.

Angie Dow, Kings County Area Public Transit - Suggested additional coordination between JPA and local transit agencies for good connections.

Doug Kerr, RailPAC - Opposes elimination of Leggett stop, as the stop does not take much time, being essentially on the side of the road.

#### Item 10 – South of Merced Integration Study

San Joaquin train service will eventually truncate at Merced once it is replaced by High Speed Rail. Study looks at how best to connect communities south of Merced, e.g., through a partnership with several local transit agencies to establish a multi-county, cross-valley bus network, coordinated with HSR Interim Service. Focus areas included Visalia to Hanford as well as Wasco to Bakersfield. Nearer terms plans are strictly bus service, but longer-term plan includes east/west rail service of potentially 75 miles, between Lemoore/Hanford and Visalia, and is included in 2018 State Rail Plan. Full report (151 pages) is available for public comment and includes draft interagency agreements, between stakeholder agencies in Kings, Tulare, and Fresno counties.

Public Comments:

Bob Neef, Kern Transit – Supports the recommendations of the study.

Angie Dow, Kings County Area Public Transit – Supports the study as a good way to improve connections.

Dave Hudson, City of San Ramon – What is the operating cost and funding source for the service?

Doug Verboon, Kings County – Supports the study, including good rail connection from Corcoran prison

Item 11 – Ridership Update

Ridership has rebounded from about 25 percent of normal to about 50 percent of normal, from December 2020 to June 2021. JPA may potentially consider restoring one train from Bakersfield to Sacramento this fall.

Item 12 – Emeryville Station Love Program

Stations are divided among staff for inspection and community engagement.

Item 13 – Executive Director's Report

Stacey Mortensen provided a brief update on federal legislation.

The next meeting is on September 24, at 9:00 am. Chair Hume adjourned the meeting at 10:53 am.