

STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 23, 2023
TO: Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors
FROM: Sarah Poe, Planner
SUBJ: SAN JOAQUIN JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY MEETING
SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

RECOMMENDATION

No Recommendation - For Information Only.

Chair Pat Hume was not present for the regular meeting of the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority on September 22, 2023.

Meeting Notes

Item 1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

Item 2. Public Comments

- N/A

Item 3. Consent Calendar

- All items were passed on consent.

Item 4. Approve a Resolution of the Governing Board of the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority Allowing a Revenue Management Pilot for the San Joaquins Intercity Passenger Rail Service from November 2, 2023, through June 30, 2024, and Authorizing the Executive Director to Negotiate, Award, and Execute Any and All Agreements and Documents Related to the Project Including Any and All Amendments thereto within Her Spending Authority (David Lipari).

Staff Comments:

- Current tickets are sold under a Reserved System, which requires tickets to be purchased prior to train departure.
- Ticket fares are managed by a distance calculation; fares decrease per mile as trip distance increases; currently no transfer discount is provided; the only discounts provided right now are seasonal offers.
- Revenue management was previously provided; however, was eliminated in 2018 due to passengers being “priced out” of their trip, the disadvantages for riders at stations, and because it focused more on revenue growth instead of ridership growth.

- Recent analysis shows the new fare policy proposal has more price points; the majority are lower than the current fare; the pilot program will include more price points and more flexible fares.
- Recommendation to move from single bucket w/peak pricing to a revenue managed fare structure with 15 available price points.
- No fiscal impact: no costs associated with pilot and fare revenue is projected to increase.

Board Comments:

- Member Espinosa- this will have a positive impact.
- Member Burgis- a “win-win” situation

Public comments:

- Martha Armas Kelly- hopeful for increased ridership; suggested improving safety, security, and limited-English and disabled rider engagement; also suggested improvements to vehicle interior and meal menu.
- Mike Barnbaum- asked several questions about the functionality of booking tickets.

Board Vote:

- All approved

Item 5. Presentation on the Draft Accessibility Compliance with US Department of Transportation (USDOT) Level Boarding Regulation for the Existing and Proposed Stations (Brian Pennino/Danielle Pena)

Staff Comments:

- Presented existing challenges for level train boarding with a mixed fleet of vehicles and different types of station platforms.
- Systemwide platform changes are being implemented at 20 existing stations and 16 new stations.
- Six accessibility options were presented.
- Outreach is now beginning to start engaging with the public; virtual presentation will be the next step to obtain public comments and feedback.
- Draft report will be published and made available for comments; final draft will be brought to the Board in January 2024 with the recommendations.

Board Comments:

- N/A

Public comments:

- N/A

Board Vote:

- Informational only.

Item 6. San Joaquins Passenger Survey Update (David Lipari)

Staff Comments:

- Presented summary of the onboard survey and market survey that was conducted in Spring 2023; purpose was to capture information on travel patterns, customer satisfaction, and demographics.
- On-board was administered on trains with tablets and postcards; market survey was administered via email.
- Summary of results- demographics haven't changed much since the last survey in 2019; full report of findings was provided.

Board Comments:

- Member Burgis asked about trip planning and suggested promoting ridership at Oakley Station.

Public comments:

- Doug Kerr inquired about the results of the market survey and was directed to the appropriate page in the Board packet.
- Mike Barnbaum suggested the use of media outlets for engaging the public.
- Martha Kelly emphasized the need to better engage with limited-English passengers through improved signage and suggested more availability and flexibility with trip planning.

Board Vote:

- Informational only.

Item 7. Update and Discussion of Next Steps for Central Valley Region Outreach Services (Marques Cook/Tom van der List)

Staff Comments:

- SJ's public relations firm KP Public Affairs, presented an update and next steps on the Central Valley Region outreach services.
- KP staff members shared several areas of focus and recent outreach and communications activities, including the following:
 - Boots on the Ground Efforts
 - Grassroots Outreach, Community Building, and Information Dissemination
 - Media Outreach
 - Thruway Bus Route Outreach

Board Comments:

- N/A

Public comments:

- N/A

Board Vote:

- Informational only.

Item 8. Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants Awards for 2023 (Michael Hanebutt)

Staff Comments:

- SJ staff provided an update on three projects that were recently awarded with Caltrans Sustainable Communities Competitive and Technical Grants
- Kings-Tulare HSR Station Transit Oriented Development and Connectivity Plan and Cross Valley Corridor Rail Service Planning- partnership with the City of Hanford, awarded \$650,000.
- Del Paso Multimodal Transportation Network and Land Use Compatibility Action Plan- partnership with SACOG, SJRRC, City of Sacramento and SacRT, awarded \$450,000.
- Downtown Stockton Multimodal Transportation Network and Land Use Compatibility Action Plan- partnership with SJCOG, SJRRC, and San Joaquin RTD, awarded \$450,000.

Board Comments:

- N/A

Public comments:

- N/A

Board Vote:

- Informational only.

Item 9. Rail Safety Month Presentation (Freddy Rodriguez/Cameron Paler)

Staff Comments:

- September is designated as “Rail Safety Month.”
- During the month, SJ is partnering with CCJPA, Rail Commission and California Operation Lifesaver (CAOL) to organize efforts focused on educating and alerting the public to the importance of safety around the railroad and rail facilities.
- Press release is forthcoming, and will share rail safety importance, and the results of the Red Shirt Competition.

Board Comments:

- N/A

Public comments:

- N/A

Board Vote:

- Informational only.

Item 10. Update on Venture Cars Deployment (Brian Schmidt)

Staff Comments:

- Deployment of the first set of Caltrans Venture Cars is planned for late October 2023
- The second deployment will be around the first of the 2024 year.
- Press release will be forthcoming to provide the schedule and information about deployment.

Board Comments:

- N/A

Public comments:

- Mike Barnbaum inquired about the feasibility of reintroducing trips that were eliminated post-pandemic and was advised that no trips would be reintroduced due to the need for spare vehicles.
- Gabriel Riley inquired if the new sets will be deployed every two months and was advised that timelines for deployment are dependent on the manufacturer.

Board Vote:

- Informational only.

Item 11. Board Member Comments

- N/A

Item 12. Executive Director's Report

- N/A

Item 13. Adjournment

The next regular meeting is scheduled for: November 27, 2023