



STAFF REPORT

DATE: February 26, 2024
TO: Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors
FROM: Sarah Poe, Planner
SUBJ: SAN JOAQUIN JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY MEETING
SUMMARY OF JANUARY 26, 2024

RECOMMENDATION

No Recommendation - For Information Only.

Chair Pat Hume was present for the regular meeting of the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority on January 26, 2024.

Meeting Notes

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

Item 2. Public Comments

- Jennifer Donlon Wyant with the City of Sacramento, and James Corless with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) welcomed the Board members to the region and emphasized the desire for collaboration on upcoming transportation projects.
- Mike Barnbaum welcomed members.
- Steve Cohn announced that a Central Valley Rail Group meeting is coming up, which will include presentations on several projects.
- Doug Kerr requested information about the purchase of train cars by Caltrans.

Item 3. Consent Calendar

- All items were passed on consent.

Item 4. PUBLIC HEARING: Presentation and Approval of a Resolution Adopting the Accessibility Compliance with U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Level Boarding Regulation (Bryan Pennino/Danielle Pena)

Staff Comments:

- Provided an update on the public draft report. No public comments were received during the comment period.
- Staff has finalized the report with the proposed ADA boarding methodology.
- System compliance covers both ACE and San Joaquin.
- The report proposes to use bridge plates, mini high platforms, and portable wheelchair lifts for compliance.
- No fiscal impact.

- Staff recommends Board approval so report can be submitted to FTA.

Board Comments:

- None

Public comments:

- None

Board Vote:

- All approved

Item 5. Approve a Resolution of the Governing Board of the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority Approving an Agreement with Perkins Eastman Architects D.P.C. for Station Signage and Wayfinding System for an Amount Not-To-Exceed \$639,374 and Authorizing the Executive Director to Negotiate, Award, and Execute Any and All Agreements and Documents Related to the Project including Approving Any and All Agreements thereto within Her Spending Authority (David Lipari/Autumn Gowan)

Staff Comments:

- Unified signage and wayfinding are needed at stations; therefore, a signage and wayfinding plan needs to be developed.
- In a joint procurement with SJRRC, ACE and Valley Rail, all stations will be audited for the development of a complete signage and wayfinding manual.
- Intends to plan and design unified signage criteria.
- Key focus for communications will be differing passenger types.
- Three proposals have been received in the procurement process.

Board Comments:

- N/A

Public comments:

- N/A

Board Vote:

- All approved.

Item 6. Approve a Resolution of the Governing Board of the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority Authorizing the Executive Director to Submit and Execute Any and All Grant Applications, Agreements, Certifications, and Assurances and Any Other Documents Necessary to the California State Transportation Agency to obtain State Rail Assistance (SRA) Funding in the Amount of \$3,000,000 towards the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Lake to West Escalon Track Improvements (Tamika Smith/Angela Miller)

Staff Comments:

- Staff reported an available balance of \$6.6 million in SRA funding to program to projects.
- Staff recommended SRA funding be requested for the final BNSF Lake to West Escalon double track construction phase of the project (\$3 million).

- The project will construct 3.8 miles of new double track, connecting two existing segments of double track between Lake and West Escalon.

Board Comments:

- None

Public comments:

- None

Board Vote:

All approved

Item 7. Approve a Resolution of the Governing Board of the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority Approving an Agreement with Four Nines Technologies for Technical Support for the San Joaquins Ticketing System for an Amount Not-To-Exceed \$1,286,870 and Authorizing the Executive Director to Negotiate, Award, and Execute Any and All Agreements and Documents Related to the Project including Approving Any and All Amendments thereto within Her Spending Authority (David Lipari/Autumn Gowan)

Staff Comments:

- Agency has a goal to unify ticketing and fare collection between San Joaquins and ACE, making an easier and more positive experience for passengers.
- Staff recommended pursuing the future ticketing platform project with Four Nines to perform needs assessment, analysis and develop concepts for joint ticketing.
- Proposed project schedule to target ticket sales ability in early 2026.

Board Comments:

- N/A

Public comments:

- N/A

Board Vote:

- All approved

Item 8. Approve a Resolution of the Governing Board of the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority Authorizing Entering into a Memorandum Of Understanding (OU) With the Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA) to Operate the Route 3 Thruway Bus Service (Stockton-Sacramento-Chico-Redding) Between Redding and Chico Via Red Bluff And Allow Passengers to Purchase Bus-only Tickets for All Redding and Red Bluff Route 3 Bus Stop Pairs Between Redding and Stockton, in the Table Attached Hereto, Upon RABA Operating the Segment, Including a Revenue Guarantee Paid Through Amtrak, Subject to Approval as to Form by General Council, and Authorizes the Executive Director to Execute Any and All Documents Related Thereto (Michael Hanebutt)

Staff Comments:

- Route 3 service changes were presented in a phased plan involving RABA partnership.
- Continued partnership and interim work will continue for future Route 3 operations.

- Staff recommend entering the MOU to allow bus-only ticketing at all Route 3 stop pairs.
- Fiscal impact is anticipated in early 2024 and future years.

Board Comments:

- Director Burgis asked if staff would coordinate further on goals brought up by Caltrans. Staff replied yes; this interim step with RABA will be the first effort.

Public comments:

- Mike Barnbaum supports the phased approach, and this is a great move forward for open ticketing. He suggested including service to Sacramento International Airport in the next phase.
- Addison Winslow, a City of Chico council member, recommended approval, as this will support sustainability goals, GHG/VMT reduction, and housing projects.
- Jenn Pollum of Shasta Regional Transportation Agency supported the continued phases to improve connectivity and sees this as a huge benefit.
- Bryce Goldstein, a Chico resident, provided support, as this will benefit all communities in the Northern Valley, including disadvantaged communities.
- Gabby Sefranick, a Caltrans employee, provided support for open ticketing on all Route 3 stop pairs.
- David Welch, a passenger, strongly supported the benefits of bus-only ticketing.
- John Ando, General Manager of the Redding Area Bus Authority looks forward to continued partnership and collaboration on the MOU.

Board Vote:

- All approved.

Item 9. SJJPA 2024 Business Plan Review (Michael Hanebutt)

Staff Comments:

- Public review draft of the Business Plan will be released in late February 2024, and presented again for approval in March 2024.
- Key areas of continued focus and changes include continuing to outline pandemic impacts, continuing to coordinate with partner agencies, continuing to pursue new service opportunities, and continuing to maintain agency facilities and infrastructure.

Public comments:

- Mike Barnbaum supported the reintroduction of the seventh-round trip for the San Joaquins and looks forward to more Venture cars in service.

Board Vote:

- Informational only.

Item 10. Del Paso Multimodal Transportation Network and Land Use Compatibility Action Plan Update (Michael Hanebutt)

Staff Comments:

- The Plan builds on Valley Rail Project and enhances multimodal connectivity between proposed Valley Rail station and two SacRT light rail stations.

- Many partnerships include affordable housing partners, Rail Commission, City of Sacramento, SACOG, Caltrans, and SacRT.
- Next steps include securing agreements with SACOG, preparing procurement of consultant, and stakeholder/public outreach meetings.

Board Comments:

- N/A

Public comments:

- Roger Dickinson encouraged the acceleration of the project, as opportunities for housing and all modes of transportation are needed and suggested the idea of a parking garage to create mixed-use environment.
- Jennifer Donlon-Wyant with the City of Sacramento expressed support and is excited to partner with others on the project.
- The local developer agreed with R. Dickinson and is excited about the station and looks forward to improving connectivity and supporting development in the area.
- Steve Cohn with Sacramento Metro Advocates for Rail and Transit (SMART) supports the project as it will help the economy, climate goals, and transit. SMART will be planning a walking tour and panel on March 27, 2024.

Board Vote:

- Informational only.

Item 11. North Valley Rail Update (Chris Devine/Michael Hanebutt)

Staff Comments:

- The study of expanding passenger rail service north from the Sacramento Area to Butte County is nearing completion. The second draft of the Plan is out for public review, and comments are due on February 6, 2024.
- Comments will be incorporated into a final plan by the end of February and will come back to the Board in the coming months for a deep dive into the strategic plan.
- The next phase of project development will include components such as environmental report and continued coordination with partners.

Board Comments:

- N/A

Public comments:

- Gary Bradford with Yuba City supported the new opportunities that will result from improved rail access.

Board Vote:

- Informational only.

Item 12. Operations and Venture Cars Update (Brian Schmidt/Nathan Alastra)

Staff Comments:

- Provided a Venture Car update and service schedule.

- Currently waiting for train set 3, which will be coming in June or July 2024.

Board Comments:

- N/A

Public comments:

- N/A

Board Vote:

- Informational only.

Item 13. Update and Discussion of Advertising Activities for Amtrak San Joaquins

(Marques Cook)

Staff Comments:

- Jeffrey Scott Agency (JSA) provided an update on advertising activities from the last six months.
- Key areas of activities include brand management, social media management, and media buying.

Board Comments:

- N/A

Public comments:

- N/A

Board Vote:

- Informational only.

Item 14. Board Member Comments

- N/A

Item 15. Executive Director's Report

- Announced a joint meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2024.

Item 16. Adjournment

The next regular meeting is scheduled for: March 22, 2024