



North Los Angeles County Transportation Coalition

Date: September 17, 2018
To: Governing Board Members of the North Los Angeles County Transportation Coalition (NCTC)
From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director,
Subject: **July 23, 2018 NCTC JPA Meeting Minutes, Consent Calendar Board Item 4**

Consent Calendar Recommendation: *Approve July 23, 2018 NCTC JPA Meeting Minutes held in the Antelope Valley Transit Authority Community Room.*

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Crist called the meeting to order at 1:04pm.

2. ROLL CALL NCTC JPA VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair, Vice Mayor Marvin Crist, City of Lancaster
Vice Chair, Mayor Pro Tem Marsha McLean, City of Santa Clarita
Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles
Mark Pestrella, Director of Public Works, County of Los Angeles
Victor Lindenheim, Golden State Gateway Coalition, County of Los Angeles
Kenneth Mann, Council Member, City of Lancaster
Mark Bozigian, City Manager, City of Lancaster
Steve Hofbauer, Council Member, City of Palmdale
Austin Bishop, Council Member, City of Palmdale
Robert Newman, Director of Public Works, City of Santa Clarita
Bob Kellar, Alternate Board Member, Council Member, City of Santa Clarita

EX-OFFICIO NCTC JPA BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Norm Hickling, Antelope Valley Transit Authority
Adrian Aguilar, Santa Clarita Transit

NCTC JPA BOARD ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Dave Perry, County of Los Angeles

NCTC JPA STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director: Vacant
Secretary: Trolis Niebla, City of Lancaster
Legal Counsel: Warren R. Wellen, County of Los Angeles

Motion to excuse Board Alternate Member Juan Carrillo, City of Palmdale was made by Austin Bishop and seconded by Kenneth Mann. Motion passed unanimously.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance led by Steve Hofbauer.

4. MINUTES

Motion to approve May 14, 2018 NCTC Inaugural Meeting Minutes was made by Mark Bozigian and seconded by Mark Pestrella. Motion approved unanimously.

16. CLOSED SESSION

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Board Chair Crist announced closed session to review Professional Services Agreement for the Executive Director position.

Board Chair Crist announced no action was taken in Closed Session and reconvened the meeting.

REGULAR CALENDAR

5. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Motion to approve Recommended Action by Kathryn Barger and seconded by Steve Hofbauer. The Motion approved unanimously with Mr. Lindenheim abstaining for prior contractual relationship with applicant.

Recommended Action APPROVED:

1. Authorize the NCTC Board Chair to execute a professional services agreement with AVS Consulting, Inc. of Los Angeles, California, in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the NCTC Executive Director position.
2. Authorize the NCTC member jurisdictions staff to coordinate with and provide oversight of the work that AVS Consulting, Inc. will be conducting on behalf of the NCTC.

6. CALIFORNIA HIGH SPEED RAIL UPDATE

Michelle Boehm, Southern California Regional Director at CHSRA, provided the update on the 2018 CHSRA newly released business plan and outlined the schedule to implement the plan. In 2016 the CHSRA business plan was to be operational from the Central Valley to the Silicon Valley. The 2018 plan still points in that direction and that segment will run first. Ms. Boehm stated that CHSRA is seriously committed to the completion and submission to the public the environmental clearance documents necessary for the Total Phase One Project from San Francisco to Anaheim. CHSRA received Federal Grants towards those documents that sunset in 2022. Ms. Boehm added that emails were sent to local and city officials to remind the officials of what CHSRA is working on in the specific area of that official prior to the CHSRA Board meeting. CHSRA's Public Outreach meetings will be an integral part to inform the public about the agency's recommended preferred alternatives analysis which allows the public to be informed and comment on the preferred analysis of the project before CHSRA Board approval meetings. The circulation of draft environmental documents in mid to late 2019. In order to continue to expedite project approvals with stringent

guidelines, CHSRA has requested from the FRA Administration for Southern California rail construction projects including regional rail projects (like Metrolink) the same NEPA-CA state clearance that CHSRA has for the planning environmental documents.

Steve Hofbauer asked about progress on “bookends” over Tehachapi, the Bakersfield to Palmdale section. Ms. Boehm stated that alternative analysis are complete for 3 to 4 different alternatives southbound only. The \$500M earmark for Southern California is committed to two regional rail projects currently, a grade separation south of Union Station and the Union Station run thru track project. Because current track and grade makes an extremely slow trip over the Tehachapi’s further discussion about northbound trips has not occurred. Mr. Hofbauer reminded Ms. Boehm that the only access through the Tehachapi's to and from AV is by car and bus.

Ms. McLean asked about the specific origin of the \$500M. Ms. Boehm stated that “the bookends” were established in 2012, with the Southern California MOU and subsequent to that the State Legislature appropriated \$500M in SB1029 from the CHSR 1A Bond funds. Ms. McLean asked if the bonds had been sold. Ms. Boehm stated that the bonds are not sold yet because once the bonds are sold the public pays interest and the 2 projects the funds are intended for are not ready to go into construction yet. Ms. Boehm stated that as a rule, the state bond funds can only be used for right of way and construction. The 2 projects identified in Southern California for the \$500M, the Rosecrans/Marquardt Grade Separation Project, with \$76M allocation has completed environmental review and will be ready to expend \$76M within the next year. Union Station Link US Project, is the other project to use the state rail funds, but the project is still in conceptual design and environmental clearance and does not have a funding agreement.

7. HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR PROJECT UPDATE

No report.

Chair Crist states NCTC consider taking a position on the High Desert Corridor project at the next meeting.

Chair Crist states NCTC consider taking a position on the High Speed Rail project at the next meeting.

8. METRO HIGHWAYS PROJECT UPDATES

Isidro Panuco, Metro Highways, Manager, Transportation Planning provided the update. Mr. Isidro began with the North LA County area update on the SR138 widening segments 6, 8 & 9. Metro is coordinating with Caltrans to update agreements to move forward with design and construction for those segments. Next project to update is the SR138/SR14 overlap projects are all in either design or construction phase. The Measure R funds of \$200M are being programmed into 10 interchange improvements, 5 for the City of Lancaster and 5 for the City of Palmdale, all in PSR, Design or construction phases. The third update was the I5/SR14 funds. Metro Board took action in May to reallocate funds that were to be 30 years out to current projects in Lancaster, Palmdale, and the County of LA. Had meeting with Santa Clarita on their project list and the goal is to go to the Board in September to include the Santa Clarita projects and reallocate the remaining funds. Lastly, the I5/HOV Lanes from I5/SR14 Interchange to Parker Road in Castaic are at 95% design phase, with construction slated to begin in late-2019/2020 timeframe.

9. CALTRANS HIGHWAYS PROJECT UPDATES

Osama Megalla, Caltrans provided updates on 6 SR138 project segments. Project 15 & 16 was voted on in March to restore funding by California Transportation Commission and expected to start in November 2018 and begin construction by July 2021 with a completion date in winter of 2023. Project 18, segment 6, is design complete with construction by November. Project 20 & 21, segment 8 & 9, was awarded November 2017. The County is relocating water, will start widening and finish by late fall of this year to mid-winter. Project 25, segment 13 with funding restored in March 2018, is slated for 2022,2023 fiscal year start but Caltrans is finding ways to expedite this project. 70% of the needed parcels are currently acquired. Project 29, just began construction and will finish by spring 2019. Project 30, was amended into 2018 SHOPP program and will go into construction by July 2021. Alternate Board Member Perry asked about Post Office access on the SR138 which is a question that has recurred at Ms. Barger's Transportation Summit. Caltrans responded that the issue was resolved by widening the guard rail, restriping and creating a shoulder on the right hand side to be used until the driveway clears.

Chair Crist talked about a meeting that occurred in late April with Caltrans to discuss the allocation of specific Caltrans staff to projects needing Caltrans review in the Antelope Valley SR138/ SR14. Caltrans assured staff that they would provide someone every 90 days. Chair Crist requested the representatives for Senator Wilk and Assemblyman Lackey if they could attain assistance from the State for the Antelope Valley. The representatives present agreed to work on the item. Mr. Hofbauer commented that delays in Caltrans review was costing hundreds of thousands of dollars to taxpayers.

10. NCTC MEMBER AGENCY TRANSPORTATION PROJECT UPDATES

Staff Secretary Niebla stated that each member agency would provide their own update.

LA County Public Works update provided by Assistant Deputy Director, John Walker. Mr. Walker distributed maps regarding completed LA County Public Works fiscal year 2017/2018 projects and some projects in design and/or currently under construction. He reported that LA County Public Works fiscal year 2017/2018 had completed 34 projects totaling over \$67M in the North County including the \$55M SR126 at Commerce Center Dr. Currently there are 7 projects totaling roughly \$19.4M awarded or under construction with 2 notable projects, Pine Canyon Rd. and Elizabeth Lakes Rd. Starting soon will be the North County bus stop AVTA improvements. The Summer Beach Buses have been operating for a month now to Santa Monica Beach from Palmdale, Lancaster and the Castaic/Westridge Santa Clarita areas. Victor Lindenheim asked about Project 23, the Old Road project and Mr. Walker pointed to the proposed 2022 award date.

Mr. Niebla provided the City of Lancaster update. He described the Revive 25 Pavement Rehab Projects over the next 2-5 years. \$55M Measure R money with a pavement rehab component as well as interchange improvement in Lancaster. Receiving \$2.1M SB1 money annually to re-pave several neighborhoods. Measure M, first 5 years, \$8.8M of improvements for pavement rehab and active transportation complete streets type projects. Mr. Niebla described leveraging various funds to complete street and road projects.

City of Palmdale Public Works, Transportation Engineer, Bill Padilla, spoke about 5 major projects funded by Measure R funds. He started with SR14 northbound off ramp which will be widened at Rancho Vista Blvd. and add one more lane in the Rancho Vista southbound route which includes

Ave. Q bridge improvement to begin at the end of this year and be completed at the end of 2019. Also, the interchange at SR14 and Palmdale Blvd. southbound ramp needs improvement and widening and the City of Palmdale is working with Caltrans to begin construction by 2021. The next project was the SR14 and southbound of ramp 10th St. West at Palmdale Blvd. to improve southbound ramp. The SR14 and 10th St. West improvement from Rancho Vista Blvd to Ave. 08 for traffic backup will become 8 lanes with construction to begin 2021. Also, between SR138 and Palmdale Blvd. between 5th St. East and 10th St East improvements to the railroad crossing will begin and an additional 2 lanes will be added to expand 4 lanes to 6 lanes by downtown to begin in year 2021 or 2022. Lastly, at State Route 14 at Ave. N roundabouts will be installed at the interchange. ITS projects exist including installation of \$10M of fiber optics in the city that have been installed within the last 5 years. Mr. Hofbauer mentioned the up-coming No-Horn Quiet Zone Metrolink project along the Palmdale Blvd. corridor and wants to ensure that the equipment installed along Palmdale Blvd. will not be wasted on the upgrade project and have to be redone. Mr. Padilla stated they would review the request.

Mike Hennawy, City Engineer, City of Santa Clarita spoke about 4 Metro projects identified to be taken to the Board for I5/SR14 with Measure R money after the meeting with Metro staff and City of Santa Clarita staff. He listed the Vista Canyon Metrolink Station, a new Metrolink station in Canyon Country, the Vista Canyon/Metrolink parking structure with 750 spaces and the Vista Canyon Road Bridge including turn signal and turn pocket extensions which provides access to the Metrolink Station from Soledad Canyon. The fourth project is the Sierra Highway traffic signal interconnect adaptive signal timing system to reduce traffic on Sierra Hwy and the SR14. All projects are scheduled to begin in September.

11. METRO REGIONAL RAIL UPDATES

Jeanet Owens, Senior Executive Officer at Metro Regional Rail provided the update. The Brighton to Roxford Double Track Project which extends from Burbank to north of Sylmar was approved in July 2015 with full funding programming authority at \$12.5M. Currently it is an 11 mile single track for the Metrolink/Antelope Valley Line. Metrolink is 60% single directional track which is equivalent to 1 lane road with bi-directional traffic. The new phasing approach will provide for 25 mile continuous double track from Union Station to San Fernando Valley which is 30 minutes bi-directional service including stops at the newly opened Burbank Airport Station. Safety, quiet zone ready improvements, efficiency and on-time performance are several upgrades. Sun Valley will connect with the new East San Fernando light rail project. Brian Bolderrama, Director Regional Rail participated in the presentation. Relocation of Metrolink tracks and San Fernando bike paths will occur. Jeanet mentioned the 2012 Antelope Valley Improvement Plan to increase the speed from Lancaster to Union Station and that most of the recommendations had been worked on or have moved forward with the exception of the Palmdale sighting. Moving forward with The Palmdale sighting allows the addition of a double track 2,500 feet long and an additional side platform in the City of Palmdale station which will reduce the train turnaround time from the now 1 hour 10 minutes to support 2 trains in both directions creating a 30 minute bi-directional trip for the rider.

A permanent study on Tunnel 25 was done. The water table is high and the flood zone is a concern. Engineer studies for a permanent solution is Metro's focus before investing in the tunnel.

There are 2 concurrent studies being completed on the Antelope Valley Line to come up with the best combined solution for localized regional rail. The first segment is from Union Station to Glendale/Burbank junction. The second study is the Antelope Valley Study from Burbank junction

all the way to the end of the line in the City of Lancaster. Metrolink is the only line to the Antelope Valley currently. The studies are looking at all physical elements including existing constraints, ridership, utilization rates, work trip analysis, destination information, and future potentials for changes. Metro wants to determine the best solution for regional rail mobility by also incorporating the future CHSR landings and the future East San Fernando Transit Corridor Project to assess the necessary infrastructure improvements. Studies show that ridership is continuing to increase. Of the roughly 3.3M trips daily, 266,000 to Union Station are from the Newhall, Via Princess and Santa Clarita stations. Ms. McLean asked if Metro was seeking State and Federal grants or funding in case SB1 goes away or if Metro was marketing the benefits of SB1. Jeanette stated that Metro is working with regional partners to seek both state and federal grants including rural area grants. The state is looking for goods movement and high capacity, higher frequency freight service and she agreed that marketing is important. Chairman Crist asked for crime statistics on the AV Line. The AV Line has a full enforcement program which checks every passenger for their valid fare.

12. METROLINK UPDATES

Alex Davis, Metrolink Government Relations talked about 3 different topics. The State of Good Repair Program made strong achievements towards addressing the rail lines. Metrolink is working diligently for Full State of Good Repair. (As a note, Metrolink may run the trains slower when it's hot out.) The Capital Improvement Program is focused on solving the single track hinderance. Metrolink created an aggressive 10 year plan of success in competing for grant opportunities coined SCORE, Southern California Optimized Rail Expansion, off the theme of Olympic readiness to provide the necessary transportation system for passenger and goods movement. Metrolink has solicited external funding sources and received over \$1.2B in state funding towards a \$10B infrastructure program to get dollars funding construction soon. Robert Newman asked Metrolink to work with cities who are doing safety improvements at grade crossings. Mr. Davis said that Metrolink is working within several programs with cities to avoid disruptions at crossings. Metrolink safety and security are showing positive improvements and there are declines in crime. Chairman Crist asked for the criminal statistics/numbers. Mr. Davis stated he was happy to report back next month with the numbers and also email them after Mr. Crist reminded Mr. Davis that he was asked to bring them last month. Mr. Hofbauer asked for the bus agencies report as well. Mr. Bozigian asked for some ridership numbers for the newly opened Metrolink/Burbank Airport station. Mr. Davis responded he would provide those numbers at the next meeting.

13. METRO LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Michael Turner, Metro and Raffi Hamparian, Metro

Mr. Turner, Metro Deputy Executive Officer, reported that the CA Legislature is currently in recess. Metro has several Bills they are sponsoring this legislative session. One of those Bills AB2548 (Friedman) will allow Metro to create a commuter benefit ordinance for employers worksite under 250 employees similar to the transit pass program for larger employers. This would satisfy an AQMD provision in law. Mr. Turner stated that if the bill were to become law, Metro would work with cities that have similar ordinances.

Mr. Turner provided an update on the repeal of SB1 and stated that his office is preparing a regional impacts fact sheet for distribution to all the municipalities on how they are spending SB1 tax dollars

in Los Angeles County. SB1 is a total of \$5B of which 3/5ths go to local municipalities. Mr. Turner stated that there is a 74% increase in Santa Clarita, Palmdale and Lancaster local-street and roads funds that comes from the state. Antelope Valley is at \$564,000 dollars a year increase and the unincorporated county gets money as well. The main discretionary SB1 allocation of \$247M for the I-5 Chokepoint Relief Project was led by Board Member and County Supervisor Barger.

Raffi Hamparian, Metro Senior Director, Government Affairs, noted 5 Federal update items:

- 1) \$47M Federal Grant Award from the INFRA Program led by Board Member and County Supervisor Barger for the I-5 Chokepoint Relief Project
- 2) US DOT Congressional Appropriations process
- 3) Future Federal Grants, BUILD grants at the DOT
- 4) Transportation Infrastructure House Chairman Shuster announced potential transportation legislation
- 5) Federal Trade Tariffs and impacts to Metro projects and rolling stock vehicles

Victor Lindenheim wanted to thank both Metro and Caltrans staff for putting the grant application packages together for the I5 Chokepoint Relief Project. Mark Pestrella thanked Metro for putting together the SB1 fact sheet that shows the local tax dollar expenditures. Roughly \$142M is set aside for LA County and the majority of it comes to the Antelope Valley since most of the route miles are in the unincorporated parts of the County.

14. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Bozigian congratulated Arthur Sohikian of AVS Consulting for being awarded the Executive Director position. Mr. Sohikian thanked Mr. Bozigian and the Board for the opportunity.

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34pm.

Next NCTC JPA Board meeting is September 17, 2018, 1pm in Santa Clarita at 20880 Centre Pointe Parkway, Santa Clarita, CA 91350.

Minutes Submitted By:
Arthur V. Sohikian
Executive Director
August 21, 2018