



# CALIFORNIA High-Speed Rail Authority

## California High-Speed Rail Authority Board Meeting Minutes December 16, 2021

### Webcast

<http://www.hsr.ca.gov/>

The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) Board convened on December 16, 2021, via webinar due to Governor Newsom's State of Emergency declaration regarding the COVID-19 outbreak and in accordance with Executive Order N-25-20 and the Guidance for Gatherings issued by the California Department of Public Health. The minutes were prepared in the order items were presented during the meeting.

#### Members Present:

- Mr. Tom Richards, Chair
- Ms. Nancy Miller, Vice-Chair
- Mr. Ernest Camacho
- Mr. Henry Perea
- Ms. Lynn Schenk
- Mr. James Ghielmetti
- Ms. Margaret Pena
- Mr. Anthony Williams
- Ms. Martha Escutia
- The Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula, Ex Officio Member
- The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, Ex Officio Member

#### Members Absent:

- N/A

#### **Public Comment**

An opportunity for public comment was made at the outset of the meeting.

#### **Agenda Item #1 – Consider Approving the November , Board Meeting Minutes**

The October 21, 2021, meeting minutes were moved for approval by Director Camacho, seconded by Director Miller and approved (9-0).

#### **Agenda Item #2 – Expenditure Authorization Request**

Chief Financial Officer for the Authority, Brian Annis, provided a presentation on the Expenditure Authorization Request to the Board. The motion was moved for approval by Director Miller, seconded by Director Schenk and approved (9-0). The following questions were asked:

**Director Camacho:** With the total of the expenditure authorization being \$17 billion, how much of the enhanced scope program-wide support is going to the existing RDP contract for an extension and the Early Train Operator for legal and financial. What is the breakout between those two?

**Mr. Annis:** The project delivery support contract will be coming in in January. I believe it'll be around a magnitude of \$400 million. there's a number of contracts in this area. Some of the larger examples, the ETO, the Financial Advisor. are ongoing contracts with different expiration dates, so we do anticipate having to reprocur some of these in the future as well. \_

**Director Perea:** is the issue that we had approved attached to the Business Plan is delaying the decision on whether we go dual track or single track depending on what the funding will be, so that's not covered in this request?

**Mr. Annis:** What we included in the Business Plan, we do have a budget for the track and systems that's budgeted at what we think the single track would cost, but that doesn't indicate a Board decision on that. We would as part of the bringing the bids forward to the Board expect a recommendation and Board direction on that question, again, when after the bids come in. The Bids will come in both ways.

**Director Perea:** The tracking systems RFP that is currently out for procurement, can you give us the timelines for that RFP, and when we expect the bids back?

**CEO Kelly:** We will be receiving bids on the order of May of this year and then an award somewhere around the July timeline. Part of that is because the Legislature is also very interested in that particular procurement. They want to see that come in and be briefed on that as well. And we're committed to doing that, so we pushed that back a little bit. And again, we want to see both bids come in.

**Director Camacho:** If you are going to bring back to us this new RFQ or RFP for the RDP contract I assume then that you will have defined the scope of work for the new entity, whoever that is?

**CEO Kelly:** Yes, that's what we'll be bringing to you for your consideration in January at the Board meeting, both the scope of the RFQ as well as sort of the estimates.

### **Agenda Item #3– Southern California Project Update**

Southern California Regional Director for the Authority, LaDonna DiCamillo, provide an update on the Southern California Project Section. The following questions were asked by the Board:

**Director Miller:** Does the Colton warehouse center east of Ontario Airport increase truck traffic to get goods to those warehouses?

**Ms. DiCamillo:** It's an intermodal freight facility and BNSF is currently evaluating, I they're doing their analysis of where they think their customer base would be and will be providing us that information. Overall, from a regional standpoint we anticipate that it will be reducing truck miles. But it may be changing truck traffic within that particular area and so we we're in the process of studying that.

**Director Gonzalez:** What is the timeline for the study to come back and for us to kind of review what that would look like in detail?

**Ms. DiCamillo:** The draft environmental document we're targeting to have out at the end of next year. It would be a year plus, maybe a little over a year between draft and finals so we're probably looking at about a two-year timeline to get that final document in front of you

**Director Gonzalez:** Do we have ridership forecasts at all for the segments or are we still working on that?

**CEO Kelly:** there's a new model that's coming forward on the ridership that updates the State Rail Plan, including our impact on that plan and how our service works with that plan. We'll be doing more refined, more dynamic, ridership modeling on that during 2022 that we will bring back in our 2023 Project Update Report

### **Agenda Item #4 – CEO Report**

Chief Executive Officer for the Authority, Brian Kelly, presented a project update to the Board.

### **Agenda Item #5– Finance and Audit Committee Report**

Finance & Audit Committee Chairman Tom Richards provided a brief status report on the Committee's work.

**Director Perea:** You mentioned we have a 30 percent vacancy rate. Is there any way we can break away from the state-hiring system to run more like a private sector firm?

**Director Kelly:** We are not typically carrying that percentage of vacancy. We had that worked down well below that number earlier in the year. But then when the budget passed and we got approvals for brand-new staffing it spiked back up, but we worked it down over the course. We were at 1 point under 20 percent and dropping, but then when we got the new approval for new positions the vacancy rate jumped back up.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Chair Richards announced at 12:37 p.m. that the Board would adjourn.