

# LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

## Alameda-San Joaquin Regional Rail Working Group

### Minutes of June 14, 2017 Meeting

#### 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Committee Chair Scott Haggerty called the meeting to order at 2:01pm.

#### 2. Roll Call of Members

##### Members Present

Supervisor Scott Haggerty (Chair), Alameda County  
Mayor Pro Tem Veronica Vargas, City of Tracy  
Supervisor Bob Elliott, San Joaquin County  
Vice Mayor Don Biddle, City of Dublin (alternate for David Haubert)  
Mayor Jerry Thorne, City of Pleasanton  
Mayor John Marchand, City of Livermore  
Board Chair Bob Johnson, SJRRC/ACE  
Board Member John McPartland, BART  
Board Chair Steven Spedowski (Livermore), LAVTA  
CEO Michael Ammann, San Joaquin Partnership  
Policy Director Josh Huber, East Bay Leadership Group

##### Members Absent

Mayor David Haubert, City of Dublin  
CEO Dale Kaye, Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group

#### 3. Public Comment

Bob Elliott, Supervisor from San Joaquin County, arrived during public comment.

Robert S. Allen

Mr. Allen provided the Alameda-San Joaquin Regional Rail Working Group a statement regarding two more alternatives linking BART and ACE Rail. Mr. Allen plans to detail the alternative links to the ACE Forward EIR as public comment and stated the following:

1. In the Altamont segment: Extend BART in a widened I-580 median to a station at I-580 and Greenville Road. Then continue about 0.7 miles in the median and under the westbound I-580 lanes onto the former SP railroad to an intermodal station near the high ACE-UP trestle and a BART train yard, no longer in the narrow confines of the freeway.
2. In the Tri-Valley segment: Restore rail along the former SP San Ramon Branch from Radum (west of Shadow Cliffs Park) to BART's East Dublin-Pleasanton station. Later extension along this publicly-owned corridor extend to San Ramon, Danville, Walnut Creek, or even Martinez

Either of these practical alternatives would link ACE with BART. Neither was, but both should be, considered in the EIR.

For now Mr. Allen suggests a major park/ride lot near I-580/Grant Line Road in far Eastern Alameda County, with HOV lanes from there over the Altamont to Greenville Road. Parking fees might also help fund a frequent commute hour shuttle bus to BART and ACE.

#### **4. Minutes**

Approved: Spedowfski/Vargas

Aye: Haggerty, Biddle, Marchand, Vargas, Spedowfski, Elliott, Johnson, McPartland

No: None

Abstain: Thorne

Absent: Haubert

#### **5. Legislative Update**

Executive Director Michael Tree presented a legislative update regarding Assembly Bill (AB) 758 to the Alameda-San Joaquin Regional Rail Working Group. Executive Director Michael Tree noted that AB 758 will establish a new authority to plan, develop, and deliver a connection between BART and ACE in the Tri-Valley. The legislation as amended provides all powers necessary to accomplish the work and provides direction. Currently AB 758 passed the Assembly Floor with a vote of 72-0 with 8 abstentions and will now go to the Senate Transportation Committee and must pass out of committee by July 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Summer Recess July 21<sup>st</sup> through August. Then it will be at the Senate Appropriations Committee and the deadline to be passed on is by September 1<sup>st</sup>. It will go on to the Senate Floor and must be passed out of Senate by September 15<sup>th</sup>. If there are amendments by the Senate then AB 758 will need to go back for approval to the Assembly. At the end of the AB process the Governor's Signature would be by October 15<sup>th</sup>. AB 758 received many letters of support by various levels of government and with business groups in the megaregion. AB 758 did receive a few letter of opposition and they were the exact letter BART submitted. BART opposition centers around BART Board policy to oppose any extension on its rail system into areas that do not represent the core segments of its existing system.

#### **6. BART EIR Update**

Supervisor Scott Haggerty informed the Alameda-San Joaquin Regional Rail Working Group that BART did not provide a staff member for an EIR Update, but alternatively sent an email stating that BART is reviewing a third internal EIR draft for BART to Livermore. BART expects to release their draft EIR for public review at the end of July. Mayor Pro Tem Veronica Vargas asked BART Board Member John McPartland why the draft EIR is taking a long time to be released. BART Board Member John McPartland explained that a month ago it was decided that a maintenance yard would be added to the EIR and this caused the EIR delay. BART Board Member John McPartland also noted that he suggested conducting a separate EIR for the maintenance yard and to have the individual who requested it figure out funding for that project. John McPartland stated that if the maintenance yard information can be added by August 1<sup>st</sup> he would allow that addition to the EIR, but he did not want the EIR delayed any further. Executive Consultant Frank Wilson stated that 2-3 years back he recalls a shop that was requested with different sites being evaluated and would like to discuss the original BART plan further in a separate meeting with BART Board Member John McPartland.

#### **7. ACE Forward EIR Presentation**

AECOM Program Manager Diane Cowin provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the ACE Forward Draft EIR update to the Alameda-San Joaquin Regional Rail Working Group. Diane Cowin informed the Alameda-San Joaquin Regional Rail Working Group that the Draft EIR is now available online for review and that a hard copy is available at 26 libraries and at the San

Joaquin Regional Rail Commission. The comment period for the Draft EIR is from May 31 to July 31, 2017. ACE Forward is also having Draft EIR Open Houses in various locations, but noted that Livermore will be on Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> and Tracy will be on Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. Diane Cowin requested that the Alameda-San Joaquin Regional Rail Working Group members let their constituents know about the meetings as well. Diane Cowin discussed ACE Forward near and long term improvements. Diane Cowin also gave an overview of the eleven ACE to BART connection alternatives utilizing rail, DMU/EMU or bus shuttle options. Diane Cowin stated that if the preferred options presented in the Draft EIR is not what the Alameda-San Joaquin Regional Rail Working Group would like as the final option to send those comments in to ACE, so they can be reviewed. Supervisor Scott Haggerty asked about the Union City options and how they performed in the study. It was noted that the Union City study would be “green” on the construction impacts and fairly “red” on the operational benefits. The final EIR will be in Late 2017.

## **8. Project and Program Development**

Executive Consultant Frank Wilson provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the project and program development to the Alameda-San Joaquin Regional Rail Working Group. Executive Consultant Frank Wilson informed the Alameda-San Joaquin Regional Rail Working Group that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) could be completed in one year. Executive Consultant Frank Wilson informed the Working Group that AB 758 is progressing through the legislative process and the hope is that on October 1<sup>st</sup> the Authority is created. Executive Consultant Frank Wilson explained that now is the time to prepare to examine key project characteristics that will shape what and how the infrastructure is built; as well as shaping the essential features of the resulting service plan. The major elements of the new Authority’s development plan consist of the following:

- a) Development of the Hard Cost elements of the program
- b) Evaluation of the soft cost budget needed to support project development activities
- c) Examine all reasonable options available to ensure attainment of comprehensive project goals
- d) Identify all necessary project / program processes required to complete the project development task and support implementation
- e) Establish budget guidelines and secure adequate funding to complete, at least, the concept plan
- f) Establish the administration and management resources necessary to carry out the work Plan

Executive Consultant Frank Wilson indicated that the Alameda-San Joaquin Regional Rail Working Group should be prepared to accomplish important tasks at each meeting going forward. Supervisor Scott Haggerty requested that a list of known and unknown funding sources be available for the Working Group at an upcoming meeting, since it is crucial for members to know what funding is available going forward on this project. Executive Consultant Frank Wilson agreed to present the funding options at the next meeting.

## **9. Fiscal Year 2018 Meeting Schedule**

Supervisor Scott Haggerty provided Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Meeting Schedule to the Alameda-San Joaquin Regional Rail Working Group. It was decided to cancel August 9, 2017 meeting. The September 13, 2017 and February 14, 2018 (second Wednesday of the month) meeting did not work for some members, so the dates would be amended to September 20, 2017 and February 21, 2018. The Alameda-San Joaquin Regional Rail Working Group approved the FY 2018 Meeting Schedule with the amended changes as stated above.

Approved: McPartland/Vargas

Aye: Haggerty, Biddle, Marchand, Vargas, Spedowski, Elliott, Johnson, McPartland, Thorne

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Haubert

**10. Adjournment. The next meeting date is scheduled for July 12, 2017**

Meeting adjourned at 3:26pm.