

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Altamont Regional Rail Working Group

DATE: January 11, 2017
PLACE: Tracy City Hall, Conference Room 203
333 Civic Center Plaza, Tracy CA 95376
TIME: 1:30pm – 4:00pm

Working Group Members:

Alameda County – Supervisor Scott Haggerty, Chair
San Joaquin County – VACANT
City of Dublin – Mayor David Haubert
City of Livermore – Mayor John Marchand
City of Pleasanton – Mayor Jerry Thorne
City of Tracy – Councilmember Veronica Vargas
ACE – VACANT
BART – Board Member John McPartland
LAVTA – Board Member Steven Spedowfski (Livermore)
Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group – Dale Kaye, CEO
East Bay Leadership Group – Josh Huber, Policy Director
San Joaquin Partnership – Michael Ammann, CEO

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Committee Chair Scott Haggerty called the meeting to order at 1:42pm.

2. Roll Call of Members

Members Present

Supervisor Scott Haggerty (Chair), Alameda County
Councilmember Don Biddle, City of Dublin (alternate for David Haubert)
Mayor John Marchand, City of Livermore
Mayor Jerry Thorne, City of Pleasanton
Councilmember Veronica Vargas, City of Tracy
Board Member John McPartland, BART
Board Member Steven Spedowfski (Livermore), LAVTA
CEO Dale Kaye, Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group
Policy Director Josh Huber, East Bay Leadership Group
CEO Michael Ammann, San Joaquin Partnership

Members Absent

Mayor David Haubert, City of Dublin

3. Public Comment

No comments

4. Minutes

Approved: Vargas/Spedowfski

Aye: Haggerty, Biddle, Marchand, Vargas, McPartland, Spedowfski, Thorne

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Haubert

* After Agenda Item 4 Supervisor Scott Haggerty requested an emergency item be added to the agenda, the election of a Vice-Chair for the Working Group, since he likely would not be present at the February Working Group meeting. The Working Group unanimously added the emergency agenda item and Councilmember Veronica Vargas was nominated as Vice Chair. No other nominations were received. The Working Group unanimously approved Councilmember Veronica Vargas as Vice-Chair as follows:

Approved: Marchand/Thorne

Aye: Haggerty, Biddle, Marchand, Vargas, McPartland, Spedowfski, Thorne

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Haubert

5. Standing Updates:

a. ACE Forward

ACE Manager of Regional Initiatives, Dan Leavitt, noted that the ACE Forward EIR document will be released in February. The EIR will be widely available for review. There will be five open houses in the following locations: Tracy, Livermore, Alameda County, San Jose, and in Modesto. The draft EIR will not identify a preferred alternative, but will show all options and the impacts. ACE forward initiated a study looking at the Alameda County owned right of way over the Altamont Pass for a potential DMU type service. The findings from this work will be in the next month or two. Additionally, ACE has initiated planning work for ACE extending to Sacramento. ACE has a public meeting in Pleasanton at the Senior Center on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 6:30pm regarding a quiet zone for Sunol and Castlewood area.

b. BART to Isabel EIR Update

BART Principal Planner Andrew Tang provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the BART to Isabel project. Andrew Tang announced that the BART to Isabel EIR will be released in the spring of 2017. On February 9th the BART Board will have a meeting regarding an update on the BART activities in the Tri-Valley. At the meeting there will be an action item regarding the expansion of the Dublin garage project. BART met with the FTA Region 9 in November 2016 and gave an update on BART to Livermore project and the technical analysis. Dan Leavitt and Andrew Tang will meet regarding coordinating the two EIR's for BART and ACE.

6. Introduction of Executive Frank Wilson and Strategic Planning

Supervisor Scott Haggerty introduced Executive Frank Wilson to the Altamont Regional Rail Working Group (ARRWG) and noted a resume that had been passed around outlining Mr. Wilson's extensive experience. Supervisor Scott Haggerty commented that from his personal stand point if Frank Wilson was not in the interviews for the ARRWG executive position that they did not have another viable candidate. Supervisor Scott Haggerty also explained that Frank Wilson knows a lot about BART, rail, and transportation and that he is excited about the future. Councilmember Veronica Vargas, who was part of the hiring team with Supervisor Haggerty, said that she feels the same way Supervisor Haggerty does regarding Frank Wilson. Councilmember Veronica Vargas also stated that Mr. Wilson's knowledge, resume, and references are outstanding. Supervisor Scott Haggerty then welcomed Executive Consultant Frank Wilson to the ARRWG.

Executive Consultant Frank Wilson stated that he hasn't been on his assignment very long, but from what he understands the ARRWG wants to build a railroad. Mr. Wilson gave a brief overview of his experience from 1989 to today. He noted that he wants to build a railroad here and has special interest in it.

Mr. Wilson explained that the way to get things accomplished is to have good leadership resourced properly, embrace innovation, creativity, and not be denied. Mr. Wilson said that Assemblywoman Catharine Baker reaching out to the ARRWG regarding how to write the legislation for the BART to ACE extension gives them the opportunity to create something in an organization that does not exist today. Mr. Wilson noted that Assemblywoman Baker gave the ARRWG the freedom to organize any way they want as long as they deliver. Mr. Wilson explained to the ARRWG that there are key components of work that must be organized and advanced which are: Technical, Financial, Decision-Making, Political, Process, Stakeholders, and Legal. In order to go forward the ARRWG will need to decide on how to proceed technically and financially. Mr. Wilson discussed the next three month expectations and the different working models with the ARRWG. Mr. Wilson requested comments or questions from the ARRWG.

Councilmember Veronica Vargas would like the ARRWG to make a project decision before the end of the meeting. Councilmember Veronica Vargas would like BART to go down the I-580 corridor from Dublin to Greenville in Livermore and connect with ACE. She is not opposed to BART going to Isabel to start with, but would like to make it a priority to connect BART to ACE at some point.

LAVTA Board Member Steven Spedowfski added that the goal is to eventually have BART connect to Greenville, but does not want it to hold up BART coming to Isabel. LAVTA Board Member Steven Spedowfski wants Isabel to be the first step in this project.

Supervisor Scott Haggerty stated that the ARRWG received the most traction when they discussed connecting ACE to BART, so he feels it is imperative to complete that connection somehow.

BART Director John McPartland stated that the dialog must be changed to priority for connecting BART to ACE, since Isabel is already going to take place. Mayor John Marchand stated that he believes it should be one seat one ride and that BART should connect to ACE at Greenville or Vasco.

The ARRWG discussed completing Phase 1 BART to Isabel. Phase 2 would be ACE connecting to BART, but this would still need to be discussed at further length. Supervisor Scott Haggerty stated that the region only has so much funding and that the ARRWG cannot be too greedy. He explained that BART going to Greenville and connecting with ACE right now will stop the project.

Representative Tim Sbranti from Congressman Swalwell's office stated that the best potential option is connecting at Isabel and that the focus should not be on Greenville currently. Representative Tim Sbranti expressed that the DMU is an intriguing option, if it came directly from Tracy connecting people from the San Joaquin Valley.

Supervisor Scott Haggerty noted that the ARRWG should receive an update from BART regarding the "Bay Fair Y" project, due to changes. Inadvertently Mayor John Marchand brought up a one seat ride and Supervisor Scott Haggerty explained that for the Tri-Valley that does not seem to be an option.

7. Set Working Group Meeting Schedule for 2017

Supervisor Scott Haggerty provided the Altamont Regional Rail Working Group (ARRWG) meeting schedule for 2017. The ARRWG approved the meeting schedule to meet monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. It was briefly discussed to have the meetings in Tracy every three months, but no decision was made.

Approved: Marchand/Vargas

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

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Haubert, Hernandez

8. Adjournment. The next meeting date is scheduled for February 8, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 3:36pm.