

STAFF REPORT

Altamont Regional Rail Working Group

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

FROM: Executive Director

DATE: May 4, 2016

Background and Next Steps

At the inaugural Altamont Regional Rail Working Group (“Working Group”) meeting in February, the Working Group received background and history of regional rail planning efforts to present day. In addition to covering rail history and plans in the region and the evolving mega-region, the BART to ACE project was discussed, as well as ACE Forward and additional initiatives. Most discussion amongst the Working Group focused on how to deliver the BART to ACE project quicker and more efficiently. The Working Group concluded the meeting by discussing initial thoughts on vision and goals and directed staff to begin prioritizing and creating next steps for future meetings.

Staff’s recommendation for the next two meetings is to present multiple case studies by experts that will provide information on the traditional delivery model for rail projects, as well as alternative models that incorporate streamlining of environmental work and other cost and time saving tactics. As the case studies are presented the Working Group will gain critical insight and knowledge that will allow them to have constructive dialogue and solid recommendations on the BART to ACE project.

The first case study, on your May 4th agenda, will be presented by Mr. Habib Balian, CEO of the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority. Mr. Balian will present the traditional project delivery method for passenger rail construction and then discuss how the Foothill Extension Construction Authority used strategic, cost saving tactics to streamline the project for a faster, more cost effective project delivery.

The second and third case studies are planned for the following Working Group meeting in July. For these case studies a representative from Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) will discuss their BART extension project, and a representative from ACE will discuss how their small, nimble staff approaches its rail planning.

Finally, in September the Working Group will hear from BART staff on the BART to ACE project, looking in more detail at the project's timeline, opportunities considered to streamline the project, and current and projected costs.

May 4th Agenda

Included on the May 4th agenda is a brief standing update from ACE and BART on their current rail planning efforts, as well as a brief review of the inaugural meeting and a few snapshots of regional projects that were of interest to the Working Group in the first meeting. These two agenda items will be presented by Mr. Daniel Iacofano of MIG.

Following the presentation by Mr. Iacofano, Mr. Habib Balian, CEO of the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority will provide the abovementioned information. He will be followed by a brief discussion on barriers and obstacle for BART to ACE that will be led by Mr. Iacofano, a brief discussion on AB2762 (Baker) and Working Group action items.

Towards the conclusion of the meeting, staff is anticipating a brief discussion by the Working Group on next steps and would appreciate thoughts and direction on the proposed strategy of the Working Group, both short and long-term.