

**Tri-Valley San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (TVSJVRRRA)
Minutes of May 13, 2020 Meeting via Zoom Teleconference**

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Scott Haggerty at 2:06pm.

2. Roll Call of Members*Members Present*

Chair Scott Haggerty, Alameda County
Vice Chair Veronica Vargas, City of Tracy
Director Bob Elliott, San Joaquin County
Director Kathy Narum, City of Pleasanton
Director Philip O'Loane, City of San Ramon
Director Benjamin Cantu, City of Manteca
Director Bernice King Tingle, Mountain House
Director Melissa Hernandez, City of Dublin
Director Paul Akinjo, City of Lathrop
Director Bob Woerner (Livermore), LAVTA
Director Leo Zuber (Ripon), ACE
Director Karen Stepper, Town of Danville
Director John Marchand, City of Livermore
Director John McPartland (District 5), BART

Members Absent

Director Sol Jobrack, City of Stockton

3. Public Comments

Public comment was received from Roland Lebrun on difficulties accessing the meeting via phone.

4. Consent Calendar – ACTION

A motion was made to approve all items on Consent Calendar as follows:

- a. Approve minutes of March 11, 2020 Board of Directors meeting.
- b. Approve Treasurer's Report for January, February and March 2020

Motion: Vargas/Hernandez

Aye: Akinjo, Cantu, Elliott, Haggerty, Marchand, McPartland, Narum, O'Loane, Stepper, Tingle, Woerner, Zuber

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Jobrack

Motion Passed

5. Executive Director's Report – INFORMATION

Executive Director Michael Tree updated the board on goings-on since the last board meeting in March where the reimbursement agreement with BART and AECOM Contract Addendum 2 were approved.

- On March 25 a \$3M allocation request was approved by the MTC board. This request funded the position of Program Manager and the work approved AECOM amendment. Tree commended Program Manager Ric Rattray on his work so far on the Valley Link project.
- Staff made a presentation to the SJ Partnership as the partnership plans for a possible Transportation Sales Tax in 2022.
- Many letters of support for Valley Link and the Altamont Corridor Vision have been received. Letters were sent to Chair Haggerty and MTC staff as they prepare the blueprint for Plan Bay Area 2050 for their commission to consider.
- Staff has incorporated into the environmental work – CEQA – an alternative catenary line in the Altamont section of the Valley Link Project. This would allow the trains to be powered by electricity from the catenary line and allow the batteries on board to be re-charged, thereby advancing the board's goal of 100% sustainability and operation of a zero-emission train.

- Meetings took place with Congressman Swalwell and Congressman Harder's staff about a potential stimulus infrastructure package in light of COVID-19 and how Valley Link would fit into it.
- On April 16 San Joaquin Council of Government (SJCOG) amended their Regional Transportation Plan to include Valley Link in the fiscally restrained section. Special thanks to Andrew Chesley, his staff and Directors Zuber and Elliot who also sit on the SJCOG board.
- On May 11 the Planning, Policy and Legislative Committee of Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) met and unanimously agreed to forward to the full commission for consideration an amendment to the Transportation Expenditure Plan to include TVSJVRRRA as an eligible recipient of Measure BB funds and also to transfer the \$400M that was for the BART to Livermore project into the Valley Link project. The committee will then open a 45-day comment period for member agencies and later bring an action item that would approve the amendments to the plan. Tree thanked Director Marchand, Mayor Haubert and Chair Haggarty for their efforts.
- A financial audit is being conducted, the report is expected to be completed in a few months. TVSJVRRRA is involved in discussions with the City of Livermore and MTC as they consider additional Priority Development Areas within the Bay Area. The Southfront station is being looked at the project level and is in the area of an APD. Tree welcomed Candice Kendall, new Executive Assistant and re-introduced Ric Rattray, Project Manager for the Valley Link Project.

Chair Haggarty commented that in his role as Chair of MTC, he has created a Blue Ribbon Task Force to help guide MTC in the recovery of Bay Area transit networks as the region adjusts to new conditions created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The task force will discuss strategies to restore ridership and will be chaired by Solano County Supervisor Jim Spering.

No questions on Executive Director's report.

6. Economic Impact Study – INFORMATION

Chair Haggarty summarized the findings of the of the study and was very pleased that the analysis was completed. Haggarty commented on the number of jobs lost since the COVID-19 pandemic and the rising unemployment rate in the U.S. He stated the importance of keeping the Valley Link project moving forward and in position to receive any and all sources of recovery funding.

Executive Director Michael Tree noted that the study was completed at no cost to TVSJVRRRA and introduced presenters Ron Wong and Marcia Sagami of PGH Wong.

Sagami described the tool used to conduct the study – a web-based tool developed by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) that takes agency spending dollars and calculates how that money is further spent within the region. She then detailed the findings of the study stating the Valley Link project is expected to create 22,000 jobs with worker income of approximately \$1.35 billion, generate \$3.5 billion of local business sales. Operations will support approximately 400 jobs per year with labor income of over \$19M each year. The project is expected to generate \$69 million in business sales annually. Overall the project will not only have a phenomenal economic impact in the region but also provide an alternative to the congested corridor in the Tri-Valley area.

Directors discussed this item. PGH Wong staff to follow up on how the wine industry was categorized in the analysis.

Tree remarked that all feedback was valued, staff anticipated building this first edition of the model and having continued discussion on the output.

7. Track Design Plans to Optimize Performance of Valley Link Trains – INFORMATION

Executive Director Michael Tree stated that after the Feasibility Report was complete, and the Environmental Study began, it was realized that in 2040 the ridership on the San Joaquin side of the track would be at crush loads during the peak period with 12/24 headways. Staff committed to look at 12/12 headways throughout the first phase with passing lanes. LTK provided the modelling services, their presentation reflected the results.

LTK Consultant Thomas Matoff, assisted by Lisa Cobb provided a presentation to the board on the proposed track design plans. The analysis conducted answered the question of how Valley Link could provide effective two-way service on a single-track railroad and minimize running time. The solution will be to implement strategically placed passing sidings of full-service, full-speed sections of double track and avoid stop and wait situations. It was noted that no specific vehicle has been selected. An assumed candidate vehicle, the Stadler 3-car DMU, was used for planning and analysis purposes. Matoff detailed the findings of the modelling and presented animated illustrations of the route with proposed sidings and concluded it is a feasible railroad.

Directors discussed this item. Staff was asked to bring the following back to the board: estimates and modeling of ridership based on higher train frequency, economic impact of increasing the number of sidings, as well as the cost to double track the entire route.

Chair Haggerty asked for public comment.

Public comment was received from Roland Lebrun on functionality of Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) light rail.

8. Allocation Request to MTC – ACTION

Executive Director Michael Tree introduced Program Manager, Ric Rattray. Rattray reiterated his experience with projects of this nature and was pleased to be working with Valley Link Rail. Rattray summarized what project costs were funded by the monies received from Tier 0 and Tier 1 funding. The Tier 2 Allocation Request also known as the Project Development Phase, includes the 30% design, Caltrans Project Approval and Environmental Documentation (PA & ED), Federal environmental process – NEPA and hiring of expert staff. This work will allow the Valley Link project to be in a position to receive any upcoming funding opportunities from federal and state sources. The total allocation request from MTC is \$46.80M. Once approved by TVSJVRRRA the request will move forward to the MTC Programming and Allocation committee on June 12, then on to the MTC Commission on June 24.

The board was also notified that a share of funding, outside of Alameda County, was identified as a partial match for this allocation. The staff of the City of Tracy has been looking at providing the project with 200 acres of land near the proposed O&M facility, with an estimated value of about \$35-40M, as a share towards the action being taken by MTC.

Chair Haggerty asked for public comment.

Technical difficulties with Zoom platform did not allow for public comment by two members of the public.

Motion to approve Resolution R02-2020 and submit allocation request to MTC: Vargas/McPartland
Aye: Akinjo, Cantu, Elliott, Haggerty, Hernandez, Marchand, Narum, O'Loane, Stepper, Tingle, Woerner, Zuber

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Jobrack

Motion Passed

9. Directors' Discussion

Director Tingle inquired as to when we can we expect double track findings – Project Manager Ric Rattray estimated, that due to complications involved in double tracking results could be available in about three months.

10. Next Meeting

Date: June 10, 2020. Location to be determined.

11. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.