

ITEM 3A.

SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION

MINUTES

For the meeting of February 1, 2007

The regular meeting for February 1, 2007 of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission was held at the Robert J. Cabral Station, South Hall Meeting Room, 949 E. Channel St., Stockton, CA. 95202.

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call:

Vice-Chair Restuccia called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and proceeded to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Executive Director Mortensen administered the Oath of Office to incoming Commissioners Larry Ruhstaller and Steve Bestolarides and the Board welcomed the new members.

Commission Members Present: Harris, Sayles, Haggerty, Blalock, Ruhstaller, Bestolarides, Vice-Chair Restuccia,

Ex-Officio Members Present: Perez for Ajise, Chesley

2. Public Presentations and Recognitions

None

3. Consent Calendar:

All items listed immediately below will be acted upon under one vote unless specifically requested to be removed from the Consent Calendar by a member of the Commission, a member of staff, or a member of the public.

A.	Minutes of January 11, 2007	ACTION
B.	Rail Commission/ACE Monthly Expenditure Report	INFORMATION
C.	Monthly ACE Fare Revenue	INFORMATION
D.	State and Federal Legislative Updates	INFORMATION
E.	ACE Ridership and On-Time Performance	INFORMATION

M/S/C (Sayles/Harris) to approve the Consent Calendar. Passed and Adopted by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission on the 1th day of February, 2007 by the following vote to wit:

Ayes: 7 Harris, Haggerty, Blalock, Sayles, Ruhstaller, Bestolarides, Vice-Chair Restuccia,
Noes: 0

Vice-Chair Restuccia requested a re-ordering of the agenda to move up Item 10, Approve Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute All necessary Documents related to the Department of Homeland Security Grant Funding and Item 11, Approve Resolution Establishing a New Regular Meeting Date for the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission.

10. Approve Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute All Necessary Documents related to the Department of Homeland Security Grant Funding

Brian Schmidt, Director of Planning and Programming reported on the funding process for federal Homeland Security funds and the administrative action necessary by the Commission to allow the funding mechanisms flow. This funding is already allocated to projects identified in the adopted Rail Commission Work Program and Budget.

Commissioner Harris asked for clarification on the types of projects in addition to the security cameras. Mr. Schmidt noted that the safety and security projects were tied into agreements with the Bay Area for real-time train tracking, automated announcement systems, wi-fi access to stations or other sites of potential incidents, and common communication channels for Bay Area transit agencies during an emergency. Vice-Chair Restuccia discussed the extensive safety and security camera system in the City of Ripon and offered technical assistance from city staff.

M/S/C (Sayles/Blalock) to approve Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute All Necessary Documents related to the Department of Homeland Security Grant Funding on the 1st Day of February, 2007 by the following vote to wit:

Ayes: 7 Harris, Haggerty, Blalock, Sayles, Ruhstaller, Bestolarides, Vice-Chair Restuccia,
Noes: 0

11. Approve Resolution Establishing a New Regular Meeting Date For the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission.

Executive Director Stacey Mortensen briefed the Commission on the past requests to re-evaluate the standing meeting date at the beginning of 2007. After a lengthy discussion, the Commission agreed upon a new meeting date of the first Friday of every month at 8:00am.

M/S/C (Bestolarides/Blalock) to approve Resolution Establishing a New Regular Meeting Date For the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission on the 1st Day of February, 2007 by the Following vote to wit:

Ayes: 7 Harris, Haggerty, Blalock, Sayles, Ruhstaller, Bestolarides, Vice-Chair Restuccia,
Noes: 0

Vice-Chair Restuccia resumed the regular order of agenda items.

4. Overview of Rail Commission Efforts

(Commissioner Haggerty arrives)

For the benefit of new Commissioners, Ms. Mortensen overviewed the general operating guidelines and objectives that govern the Rail Commission efforts. In general, she discussed the Commission's highest priority of securing an independent corridor for the ACE service, of leveraging external funds with the Measure K revenues and of working in creative partnerships to maximize resources.

(Commissioner Bestolarides leaves)

5. **2007/2008 Draft Baseline ACE Service Plan**
(Staff pulled this item from the agenda)

6. **History and Status of Cabral Station Neighborhood Revitalization Plan**

Special Project Coordinator Thomas Reeves updated the Commissioners on the overall phasing of the Cabral Station project. He noted that the Phase I Conceptual Revitalization Plan had been completed and that Phase II for the project was underway, including environmental review, final engineering plans, specifications and engineering estimate, and right-of-way acquisition.

Commissioner Harris asked about the City development efforts on the east side of the tracks and the status of the Western Pacific Depot. Ms. Mortensen noted that the City development projects focused more on the western edge of the Downtown, and what development was planned nearer to the Cabral station generally terminated at the railroad tracks. Commissioner Harris asked about the historical status of the Western Pacific Depot and Ms. Mortensen responded that both the Cabral station and the Western Pacific Depot were eligible for historic designation, but were not currently listed on the Historic Register. He expressed his concern that the WP Depot be preserved. Vice-Chair Restuccia also expressed his support for acquiring and preserving the Depot.

Commissioner Blalock commented on the proposed traffic circulation patterns and the limitations of the access from Miner Avenue (i.e. left turns prohibited from Miner to Aurora). Commissioner Haggerty expressed his continued support for adding higher density housing along Channel Street. He urged caution in making improvements now that might be in conflict with long-term developments.

7. **Background and Status of the Altamont Rail Corridor Analysis**

Mr. Schmidt gave an overview of the study to improve the current ACE service over a 5-year and 10-year timeframe. This study effort was recommended as a result of a Rail Commission Planning Workshop in the Spring of 2005. He noted that the acquisition of the ACE corridor has surfaced as a critical priority in order to achieve the high level of ridership that could be anticipated in this crucial goods movement and commute corridor between the Central Valley and the Bay Area. A direct connection between ACE and BART has also emerged as a high priority.

Commissioner Haggerty commented that the I-580 improvements were underway in Alameda County, and that there should be a way to run the ACE service down the I-580 median to achieve a direct connection with BART. He expressed concern over any other connection strategies that require an additional transfer (i.e. shuttle bus)

8. **Background and Status Report on the Rail Commission Rail Service Expansion Study**

Mr. Schmidt outlined the scope of the Expansion Study and the various rail corridors that could provide passenger service up and down the Central Valley and to the East Bay Area through Contra Costa County. Travel demand and commute data is being assembled from all the COG's to assist in developing potential ridership projections. Special focus will be on the Central Valley rail service potential and a Rail Policy Advisory Committee is being established to help guide the study effort. Ms. Mortensen noted that if existing rail lines are

utilized, a primary issue would be the ability to negotiate with Union Pacific for service on a particular alignment.

Kenny Mostern, Transportation Involves Everyone from Merced, expressed support for the study and assistance in activating community members to comment during the study process. He suggested that Rail Commission meetings be set to allow people to utilize the SAN JOAQUINS, rather than having to drive.

9. Marketing and Outreach Update

Ms. Marla Smith, Marketing Coordinator, briefed the Board on three current marketing and outreach efforts

- Working with El Concilio to expand outreach and provide ACE Service information to the Spanish Speaking community
- Developing an ACE Service Map that is consistent with the maps of neighboring Bay Area transit systems
- Expanding partnership with University of Phoenix to include joint outreach to Bay Area employers

12. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Haggerty asked Ms. Mortensen to send a letter to the Oakland A's expressing the Commission's support of a Fremont Train Station.

13. Ex-Officio's Comments

None

14. Executive Director Report

Ms. Mortensen asked Thomas Reeves and Laura Farley to brief the Board on the outcome of their trip to Seattle's Sounder Rail System. The two agencies shared and compared best practices and brainstormed on ideas for increasing ridership. Ms. Mortensen reported that Ms. Farley's program to attract students and seniors onto the train continues to be one of the more successful programs in the industry.

15. Adjournment

The next regular meeting is scheduled for:

March 2, 2007 at 8 a.m.
Robert J. Cabral Station
949 E. Channel Street
Stockton, CA 95202