



CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

CA High-Speed Rail Authority Board Meeting Minutes February 3, 2011 Sacto. City Hall City Council Chambers Sacramento, CA

The public meeting of the CA High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order on February 3, 2011 at 9:04 am at Sacramento City Hall.

Members Present:

Chairman Pringle
Tom Umberg
Lynn Schenk
David Crane
Fran Florez
Quentin Kopp
Tom Richards
Matt Toledo

Members Absent:

Russell Burns

Vice Chair Umberg swears in new Board Members and welcomes them.

Agenda Item # 3 – Confirmation of Officers and Selection of Committee Members

Member Umberg then moves the nomination of Mr. Pringle as Chair and Ms. Schenk as Vice Chair, Member Florez seconds. Roll was called. Motion passes 7-0 (with Member Crane absent at time of roll call).

Agenda Item # 2 – Public Comment

An opportunity for public comment was provided in regards to any agenda item. Positive support was voiced, while some concern was conveyed in regards to the Altamont Corridor preliminary AA as well as the SBE/DVBE policy.

Agenda Item # 4 – Revised 2011 Board Meeting Schedule

The Board discussed the 2011 meeting schedule and some expressed their individual concerns with certain dates for the year. Motion moved by Member Richards, seconded by Member Florez, to adjust the 2011 meeting schedule as follows:

Change July 7, 2011 to July 14, 2011
Change August 4, 2011 to August 25, 2011
Change October 6, 2011 to September 22, 2011

With no objection, motion passes.

Agenda Item # 5 – HST Station Area Development Policy

Deputy Director Dan Leavitt gave a presentation to the board on the revisions made to the HST Station Area Development principles and guidelines.

An opportunity for public comment was then provided on this agenda item.

Staff Recommendation

The Board approve the revisions to the “HST Station Area: General Principles and Guidelines” document and delegate to the CEO the authority to negotiate and enter into agreements with communities for the purpose of carrying out the guidelines set forth in the Board adopted HST Station Area Development Policies by adopting Resolution HSRA 11-07.

Member Kopp moves to adopt Resolution HSRA 11-07 with recommended amendments. Seconded by Member Richard. With no objection, motion passed 8-0 with member Kopp's recommended amendments.

Agenda Item # 6 – Preliminary Alternatives Analysis Report for the Altamont Corridor Rail Project.

Deputy Director Dan Leavitt introduces the consulting team, Will Gimpel, regional director of the project management team of this section and Brent Ogden with AECOM, project manager for the Altamont Corridor Rail Project.

Mr. Gimpel and Mr. Ogden give a presentation, briefing the board on the current state of analyzing the alignment, station alternatives and maintenance facilities for this project.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff requests approval of the Preliminary AA.

An opportunity for public comment was then provided on this agenda item.

Member Kopp moves to adopt staff recommendation, seconded by Member Umberg. With no objection, motion passes unanimously with Member Crane absent.

Agenda Item # 7 – Draft Small Business/Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Policy

CHSRA representative Rachel Weninger gave a brief informational update. Mr. van Ark requests suggestions and comments from the public to assist us in creating this policy.

Several Board Members expressed their opinions and concerns on this item for our consideration of this policy.

An opportunity for public comment was then provided on this agenda item.

Chairman Pringle accepts this informational item and looks forward to the policy coming back before the board.

Agenda Item # 8 – Legislative Update

Deputy Director Jeff Barker gives a brief update on bills that have been introduced related to our project at the start of the legislative session. He announces that we are working with a number of bill Authors and/or their staff directly on these bills. Notes there are 2 bills, one in the Senate, one in the Assembly that would seek to strip additional bond funding from the project. The bill deadline is in 2 weeks and we expect additional bills between now and then. An update will be brought to the board when they are finalized and ready to have a position taken on them.

Chairman Pringle recommends that on future agendas, we list the actual bill numbers under the agenda item number so that we will have the opportunity to vote on them if needed.

Agenda Item # 9 - Members Report

As Chairman he would like to maintain the same committees as we have established now and announced his preferred members of these Committees:

Executive/Administrative Committee members: Pringle, Schenk and Toledo

Operations Committee members: Crane, Kopp and Richards

Finance Committee members: Umberg, Burns and Florez

Member Umberg reports that there has been a new chair appointed to the Senate Transportation Committee. He welcomes the new chair. He also met with Senator Perez and that he was very supportive of the project. Also gave a special thank you to Assembly member Galgiani for participation and support in the transportation committee meetings.

Member Richards congratulated staff on the outreach of the Altamont Corridor and encourage that the outreach continue now that the EIR process will move forward and also encourage staff to maintain that outreach to all other sections and segments even as we move through the EIR process.

Agenda Item # 10 - CEO Report

CEO van Ark updates the board on several items. He is pleased to announce that President Obama talked about HSR, and specifically mentioned CA, in his state of the union address.

The Mica hearings will be coming to CA between the 21st and 23rd of February. More details still yet to follow. We need to have more interfaces with people who are really supportive of the project.

On the outreach side, he and staff continue to meet with a variety of legislators including the select committee of the HSR. He participated, as he does monthly, with the CEO's of southern CA and region and continues to maintain a good working relationship with them.

He attended the Japanese delegation forum in Los Angeles in the middle of January. They informed us of the advantages of High Speed Rail and what opportunities this project could bring to our state and to our nation.

He has met with Senator Curran Price and others such as the tri-caucus, on issues of small businesses and making sure that we reach out and make them understand that we are open to this issue and putting this policy in place.

He has been meeting with the cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill to ensure them that our outreach team will continue to have the technical meetings in those areas and that there is a combined attempt to optimize the route of the HSR.

He has met with the consul generals of Germany and the United Kingdom who are showing great interest in what's happening in our project.

The professional engineer of CA had meetings with us and labor union leadership and has shown a lot of support for the future of the project.

Members of our technical team participated in an important meeting in Washington DC. This workshop was about how we optimize HSR so that we make sure that we do not reinvent the wheel and that we have the right technology to operate successfully.

On the outreach side, there were 47 meetings held this month.

He will discuss in closed session today details with the Board about the LA Union Station acquisition of the Union Station site, the real estate that's on it for the purpose of ROW preservation.

A brief budget update; he has had budget hearings with the Assembly and Senate stating we need to go back and reprioritize the sections within the alignment and have further discussions with Caltrans, Caltrain etc.

On the financial consulting services side, we have had a bit of movement there. He provided an update on the selection process of the qualified vendor to fulfill the request for proposal. The board had given the CEO the authority to negotiate with the number 1 ranked firm, Price Waterhouse Cooper. The negotiations are required to meet the States terms and conditions which are strictly enforced by DGS. The negotiations with PWC turned out to be not satisfactory to the state, so he informed the Board that he intends to conclude discussions with PWC and commence discussions with the next highest rank firm.

During the last board meeting, member Kopp had requested some information that may affect the initial construction in the central valley. Although the information given today is provisional as there are still many options open then today's figures can only be indicative because every option has a different number. We can confirm that the number would be about a thousand takings of which about 20 percent would be full parcel takings and 80 percent would be partial takings.

Mr. van Ark updates the board in regards to the FPPC lawsuit findings. There is no evidence of any wrongdoing on the involved members' part in relation to their travel that was questioned.

Mr. van Ark introduced to the board our newest team member, Tim Einer, who will be acting as board secretary along with Lisa Toof.

Chairman Pringle clarified that the CEO's statement of "taking" of parcels will be misconstrued as we are taking their land and recommends Mr. van Ark state that there will be over 1000 parcels affected by our project. Mr. van Ark agreed that his intent is not that his term "taking" is not used as taking by force, but by negotiation settlements.

Chairman Pringle Adjourned the board to closed session at 12:00 pm.

The Board returns from closed session at 12:48 pm. Chairman Pringle announces that there was nothing to report in regards to the closed session.

Meeting adjourned at 12:49 pm.