

High Desert Corridor  
Joint Powers Authority

April 10, 2013

Meeting Materials

Item 6

XpressWest Update



# High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority



## E-220 HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR

- DRAFT -

April 10, 2013

The Honorable Ray H. LaHood  
Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to reinforce our action, taken in June 2011, to support the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) loan to XpressWest between Las Vegas and Victorville.

In the interest of economic development and jobs creation, and personal and rail interstate mobility, the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority (HDC JPA) has supported and collaborated planning with the XpressWest (XW) project (formerly DesertXpress) since May of 2010. The Victorville XW station is our JPA project's eastern terminus, and will serve to extend XW service to the Palmdale Transportation Center.

The HDC JPA was formed to stimulate a 50-mile Palmdale-Victorville Public Private Partnership (PPP) to provide connectivity between Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. In SAFTEA-LU, the 50-mile segment was designated a Highway of National Significance by "connecting downtown Los Angeles to Las Vegas via Palmdale and Victorville", language taken from SAFTEA-LU. We have long been looking to XW to break ground since the ROD was issued in 2010, to provide the first step to that connectivity.

The 50-mile segment between Palmdale and Victorville is now a multipurpose corridor of highway, high speed rail and green energy generation and transmission in one corridor. We are on schedule to issue a draft EIS in December 2013, with the FRA as Cooperative Agency, to connect with XW. The Los Angeles County Transportation Authority (Metro) is contracting with Caltrans and managing that EIS.

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The Honorable Ray H. LaHood

April 10, 2013

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The "Public" part of this PPP is a loan that will be repaid with interest by the private sector. With 28,400 direct jobs during the construction period for the Las Vegas to Victorville leg, we urge you to expedite approval to the RIFF loan.

Sincerely,

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Robert A. Lovingood  
Supervisor, San Bernardino County First  
District

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Michael D. Antonovich, Vice-Chairman  
Supervisor, Los Angeles County Fifth  
District

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