

Tri-Valley San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (TVSJVRRRA)
Minutes of July 14, 2021 meeting via Zoom Teleconference

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting of the board of directors was called to order by Vice Chair Melissa Hernandez at 2:00 p.m. Hernandez then lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Roll Call of Members**

Members Present

Chair Veronica Vargas, City of Tracy (**arrived during Item 6*)

Vice Chair Melissa Hernandez, City of Dublin

Director Paul Akinjo, City of Lathrop

Director David Haubert, Alameda County

Director David Hudson, San Ramon (**arrived during Item 7*)

Director Brittini Kiick (Livermore), LAVTA

Director Bernice King Tingle, Mountain House

Director John McPartland (District 5), BART (**arrived during Item 4*)

Director Kathy Narum, City of Pleasanton

Director Robert Rickman, San Joaquin County

Director Karen Stepper, Town of Danville

Director Bob Woerner, City of Livermore

Director Dan Wright, City of Stockton

Director Leo Zuber (Ripon), ACE

Members Absent

Director Benjamin Cantu, City of Manteca

3. **Public Comments**

Public comment was heard from Roland Lebrun who thanked the board for adding closed caption to the virtual meetings.

4. **Consent Calendar – ACTION**

Motion to approve all items on Consent Calendar as follows:

- a. Minutes of June 9, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. Treasurer's Report for May 2021.

Motion: Stepper/Wright

Aye: Akinjo, Haubert, Hernandez, Kiick, McPartland, Narum, Rickman, Stepper, Tingle, Woerner, Wright, Zuber

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Cantu, Hudson, Vargas

Motion Passed

5. **Executive Directors Report – INFORMATION**

Executive Director Michael Tree gave an oral report.

- **BOD Meetings** – As previously discussed, the board of directors will not meet in August. The board will reconvene in September.

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- **SB548** – This legislation regarding Valley Link and the Authority continues to move forward in Sacramento. The bill was approved unanimously by the Assembly Transportation committee on June 21, 2021 and will next move to the Assembly floor and once approved, go to the Governor’s office for signature.
- **Pending Grant Applications** – Staff has submitted the following grants:
 - i. DOT/FTA 2021 Competitive Funding Opportunity: Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning
 - ii. DOT/ OSDBU FY 2021 National Infrastructure Investments RAISE 2021 to look at a joint corridor system with ACE.
- **Shared Autonomous Vehicle (SAV)** – A project of the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, the SAV that will be a first and last mile option for riders of Valley Link. The project is now in phase 2 and links with the Valley Link Sustainability Blueprint.
- **Planning** – Many projects and opportunities that affect Valley Link are in the works: Regional Transportation Plans for the Bay Area and San Joaquin County, Link21, Bay Fair Connection, MTC Mega-regional Policy and SJCOG Managed Lanes Project. These will be addressed in further detail at the September board meeting.
- **Hydrogen Fuel** – Staff is working with suppliers to get hydrogen at a cost that the Valley Link project can sustain.
- **Deputy Executive Director** – Deputy Executive Director/Program Manager (DED/PM) Kevin Sheridan is working on the NEPA environmental clearance and PA&ED phase with Caltrans.
- **Ballot Measure** – Multiple groups and individuals are supporting a 9-county measure that may be added to the ballot in January 2024.

Tree took questions from members of the board regarding hydrogen and other clean fuel options. Public comment was heard from Roland Lebrun and Vaughn Wolfe.

6. Approve Resolution R12-2021 authorizing the Executive Director to execute Cooperative Agreement Amendment No. 1 with Caltrans – ACTION

DED/PM Sheridan introduced this item. The action will approve an additional \$100,000 to Caltrans for completion of the project initiation document, bringing the total to \$300,000. The document is scheduled to be completed by October 2021. This document will also contain co-operative agreements to continue with environmental studies. Directors discussed this item. There was no public comment.

Motion: Woerner/Haubert

Aye: Akinjo, Haubert, Hernandez, Kiick, McPartland, Narum, Rickman, Stepper, Tingle, Vargas, Woerner, Wright, Zuber

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Cantu, Hudson

Motion Passed

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7. **Approve Resolution R14-2021 authorizing the Executive Director to execute an Employment Agreement with Bill O’Hair as the Authority’s Rail Engineering and Construction Project Manager– ACTION**

Tree introduced this item. O’Hair has been working in this role as a BART seconded employee. This action will allow the Authority to employ O’Hair as an at-will employee. Directors discussed this item and the human resource policy. There was no public comment.

Motion: Hudson/Narum

Aye: Akinjo, Haubert, Hernandez, Hudson, Kiick, McPartland, Narum, Rickman, Stepper, Tingle, Vargas, Woerner, Wright, Zuber

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Cantu

Motion Passed

8. **Approve Resolution R13-2021 authorizing the Executive Director to execute an Employment Agreement with Marianne Payne as the Authority’s Director of Policy, Planning & Environmental – ACTION**

The board discussed this item. There was no public comment.

Motion: Haubert/Akinjo

Aye: Akinjo, Haubert, Hernandez, Hudson, Kiick, McPartland, Narum, Rickman, Stepper, Tingle, Vargas, Woerner, Wright, Zuber

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Cantu

Motion Passed

9. **Directors’ Discussion**

Director Hudson emphasized the importance of every director, and entity they represent, adding Valley Link to their list of priorities. Discussion continued regarding human resource compliance and directors Woerner and Akinjo asked that the responsible person(s) be identified. Michael Conneran agreed to provide the board with a list of responsibilities as it pertains to human resource policies and procedures. Director Kiick requested that staff bring recommendations to the board on ways to best support the potential 2024 measure.

10. **Next Meeting**

September 8, 2021 at 2 p.m. – *Location to be determined*

11. **Adjourn (Akinjo/Hudson – without objection)**

Meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.