

**Tri-Valley San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (TVSJVRRRA)
Minutes of December 9, 2020 meeting via Zoom Teleconference**

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Veronica Vargas at 2:01 p.m.

a. Oaths of Office

Supervisor Robert Rickman administered Oaths of Office to Mayor David Hudson, Councilmember Brittini Kiick and Supervisor David Haubert. Haubert administered the oath to Rickman. Chair Vargas welcomed the new board members and expressed the importance of the Valley Link project to commuters and all the communities involved.

2. Roll Call of Members

Members Present

Chair Veronica Vargas, City of Tracy
Director Melissa Hernandez, City of Dublin
Director Paul Akinjo, City of Lathrop
Director Benjamin Cantu, City of Manteca
Director David Haubert, Alameda County
Director David Hudson, San Ramon
Director Brittini Kiick (Livermore), LAVTA
Director Bernice King Tingle, Mountain House
Director John McPartland (District 5), BART
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 Leo Zuber (Ripon), ACE

Members Absent

Director Sol Jobrack, City of Stockton

3. Introduction of New Board Members and Election of New Vice Chair of the Board – ACTION

Vargas acknowledged former board chair Scott Haggerty who was present at the meeting. Each of the incoming board members gave a short introduction.

Motion to elect Director Melissa Hernandez as the new Vice Chair of the Board of Directors.
The directors discussed this motion. There was no public comment.

Motion: Vargas/Haubert

Aye: Akinjo, Cantu, Haubert, Hudson, Kiick, King-Tingle, McPartland, Narum, Rickman, Stepper, Vargas, Woerner, Zuber

Nay: None

Abstain: Hernandez

Absent: Jobrack

Motion Passed

4. Public Comments

Public comment was heard from Lilt Mai, Mayor of Fremont.

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5. **Consent Calendar – ACTION**

Motion to approve all items on Consent Calendar as follows:

- a. Minutes of December 9, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting.
- b. Treasurer’s Reports for November and December 2020.

Motion: Stepper/Narum

Aye: Akinjo, Cantu, Haubert, Hernandez, Hudson, Kiick, King-Tingle, Narum, Rickman, Stepper, Vargas, Woerner, Zuber

Nay: None

Abstain: McPartland (*absent during this item due to technical difficulties*)

Absent: Jobrack

Motion Passed

6. **Executive Directors Report – INFORMATION**

Executive Director Michael Tree gave a presentation and oral report

- **Draft EIR** – The public comment period for the DEIR closed on January 21, 2021. The Authority received letters from 42 different entities. The project team is currently working to respond to the comments and revise the DEIR as needed. The final DEIR should be ready for board approval at the May board meeting.
- **Project Fact Sheet** – The Valley Link Fact Sheet has been updated and is available on the Authority’s website.
- **AB 758** – Staff is working with Senator Susan Eggman to introduce amendments relating to project delivery and exemption from local zoning; an exemption already in place for rail transit districts in the State.
- **Funding** – Staff is in talks with the congressmen who represent the project area on three funding requests.
- **NEPA** – As agreed by the board, work on NEPA will begin after the EIR, the final step in the CEQA process, is concluded. Staff is in discussion with the FTA to be the federal agency that will sponsor the project. The Authority is in the process of applying to become a full FTA grantee, so the authority will be in a position to apply for federal funding.
- **California High-Speed Rail Authority** – Valley Link has been included in the Revised Draft 2020 Business Plan.
- **Valley Link Team** – Due to retirement of seconded BART employees, Authority staff is working with legal to determine the best option for keeping the Program Manager and Civil/Structural Lead on the project.

There was no discussion of the directors and no public comment was received.

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7. Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Tri-Valley-San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority Adopting the Policy Titled “Fixed Asset Policy and Procedures” – ACTION

Tree presented the staff report. The fixed asset policy will track items, provide proper accounting and loss prevention. The policy will also be in line with FTA procedures. Directors discussed this item. No public comment was received.

Motion to approve the fixed asset policy and procedures as written.

Motion: Cantu/Stepper

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Jobrack

Motion Passed

8. 2021 Strategic Priorities – Valley Link Advocacy – ACTION

Tree presented the staff report and introduced goals and strategies for attaining these goals. Once approved, the next steps will be to begin work to advance the advocacy within the adopted guidelines. Tactics will be identified for each of the adopted strategies and ongoing updates will be provided regularly to the board. Directors discussed this item. There was no public comment.

Motion to approve the program of strategic priorities to guide federal, state and regional/local legislative advocacy for Valley Link in 2021 with the inclusion of optimizing Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) reduction as a strategy for the sustainability goal.

Motion: Hudson/Akinjo

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Jobrack

Motion Passed

9. Status Report on Efforts to Qualify Valley Link as a Federal Grant Recipient – INFORMATION

Legal Counsel Michael Conneran presented the staff report. In order to qualify to receive federal funds the agency must satisfy technical and legal requirements, including developing new policies regarding civil rights, DBE/SBE, environmental protection, safety, equal employment opportunity, and the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse. Staff is preparing to bring these measures to the board for approval at the March board meeting. There was no discussion by the directors. There was no public comment.

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10. Title VI Policy Statement – ACTION

Tree presented the staff report and read the proposed policy language. The directors discussed this item and no public comment was received.

A motion was made to have the legal team amend the policy statement with the discussed changes and bring back to the board at the March meeting.

Motion: Kiick/King-Tingle

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Jobrack

Motion Passed

11. Directors' Discussion

Director Woerner reiterated the importance of coordinating with the cities and counties with regard to lobbying. He asked that staff bring back an action plan with strategies for how this can be accomplished at a future board meeting. Director Narum asked that a list be provided of Valley Link's positions on relevant Senate and Assembly Bills so cities can further support the Authority.

12. Next Meeting

March 10, 2021 at 2 p.m. – Via Teleconference

13. Adjourn (King-Tingle/Cantu)

Meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.