



Chair, **Lisa Craig-Hensley**, City of Lodi  
Vice-Chair, **Leo Zuber**, City of Ripon  
Commissioner, **Dan Arriola**, City of Tracy  
Commissioner, **Steven Ding**, San Joaquin County

Interim Executive Director, **David Lipari**

Commissioner, **Christina Fugazi**, City of Stockton  
Commissioner, **Mike Morowit**, City of Manteca  
Commissioner, **John Marchand**, City of Livermore  
Commissioner, **Raj Salwan**, City of Fremont

## **SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

**Friday, November 7, 2025 – 8:30 am**

Robert J. Cabral Station  
Board Room  
949 E. Channel Street  
Stockton, CA 95202

**Members of the public may attend the meeting at the above addresses, or may observe the meeting by using the link or dial-in information below:**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87961933868>**

**Or Telephone: +1 669 444 9171 US**

**Persons wishing to address the Commission on any item of interest to the public regarding rail shall state their names and address and make their presentation. The Commission cannot take action on matters not on the agenda unless the action is authorized by Section 54954.2 of the Government Code. Materials related to an item on the Agenda submitted to the Board of Commissioners after distribution of the agenda packet are available for the public inspection in the Commission Office at 949 E. Channel Street during normal business hours. These documents are also available on the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission website at <https://www.sjrcc.com/events/> subject to staff's ability to post the documents prior to the meeting. If a member of the public wishes to make a public comment:**

- 1. Submit written comments to SJRRC staff via email at [clerk@sjrcc.com](mailto:clerk@sjrcc.com), in which staff will read the comment aloud during the public comment period.**
- 2. Complete a Request to Speak form (available at the entrance to the Board Room) and give it to the SJRRC Board Clerk before the Item is considered by the Board.**
- 3. Join from the Zoom meeting link and notify SJRRC staff by alerting them via the "Raise hand" or "Chat" function; call +1 669 444 9171, dial \*9 to raise your hand when you wish to speak, and dial \*6 to unmute when you are requested to speak. Please note that if participating using Zoom, all members of the public will be placed on mute until such times allow for public comments to be made.**

**Public comments should be limited to five (5) minutes per comment.**

*This Agenda shall be made available upon request in alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12132) and the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code § 54954.2). Persons requesting a disability related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should contact San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRC) staff, at (209) 944-6220, during regular business hours, at least twenty-four hours prior to the time of the meeting.*

All proceedings before the Commission are conducted in English. Anyone wishing to address the SJRRC Board is advised to have an interpreter or to contact SJRRC during regular business hours at least 48 hours prior to the time of the meeting so that SJRRC can provide an interpreter. Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available upon request in both English and Spanish for public inspection at the Office of the Executive Director located at 949 East Channel Street, Stockton, California, 95202 during normal business hours or by calling (209) 944-6220. The Agenda is available on the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission website: [www.sjrcc.com](http://www.sjrcc.com).

**Disclosures:** Commissioners shall disclose any agenda item in which they have a conflict of interest under State law and acknowledge whether they will recuse from hearing that item. Among other State laws, the Levine Act (Gov. C. §84308) may require recusal on agenda items involving a contract or entitlement before the Commission where a campaign donor is a participant, and the campaign contribution totals more than \$250 within the 12-month period before the decision on the item.

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** **Chair Craig-Hensley**

**2. Roll Call**

Roll Call: Arriola, Ding, Fugazi, Marchand, Morowit, Salwan, Vice-Chair Zuber, Chair Craig-Hensley

Ex-Officios: Zwahlen (StanCOG), Nguyen (SJCOG), Clifford (SJRTD), Magsayo (Catrans)

**3. Public Comment**

Persons wishing to address the Commission on any item of interest to the public regarding rail shall state their names and addresses and make their presentation. Please limit presentations to five minutes. The Commission cannot take action on matters not on the agenda unless the action is authorized by Section 54954.2 of the Government Code. Materials related to an item on the Agenda submitted to the Board of Directors after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Commission Office at 949 E. Channel Street during normal business hours. These documents are also available on the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission website at <https://www.sjrcc.com/events/> subject to staff's ability to post the documents prior to the meeting.

Public comments should be limited to five (5) minutes per comment.

**4. Consent Calendar**

- 4.1 Approve Minutes of San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission October 3, 2025 Board Meeting (Regular and Special Voting Members) **ACTION**
- 4.2 Approve Minutes of San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission October 22, 2025 Board Special Meeting (Regular and Special Voting Members) **ACTION**

- 4.3 Adopt a Resolution Approving Extended Expiration and No Ticket Exchange of the ACE Legacy Tickets Through December 31, 2026, as Part of the Transition to the New ACE Ticketing Platform Project  
(Regular and Special Voting Members) **ACTION**
- 4.4 Adopt a Resolution Ratifying and Affirming the Interim Executive Director's Submittal of the 2026 San Joaquin One Voice® Application for the North Lathrop Transfer Station Project and Further Authorizing the Interim Executive Director, or Designee, to Negotiate and Execute Any Grant Agreements, Standard Agreements, Program Supplemental Agreements, Fund Exchange Agreements, and/or Fund Transfer Agreements to Obtain the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program Funding in the Amount of \$25 Million Towards the North Lathrop Transfer Station Project  
(Regular and Special Voting Members) **ACTION**
- 4.5 Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Interim Executive Director, or Designee, to Submit and Execute Any and All Grant Applications, Agreements, Certifications and Assurances, and any Other Documents Necessary to Obtain Financial Assistance Provided by the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) Under the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP)  
(Regular and Special Voting Members Only) **ACTION**
- 4.6 Adopt a Resolution Ratifying and Affirming the Interim Executive Director's Action to Submit the 2025 Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) Regional Program Prioritization Program (RPPP) Application for the Del Paso Siding and Track and Signaling Improvements Projects and Further Authorizing the Interim Executive Director to Negotiate and Execute Any Grant Agreements, Standard Agreements, Program Supplemental Agreements, Fund Exchange Agreements, and/or Fund Transfer Agreements to Obtain the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program Funding in the Amount of \$105 Million  
(Regular and Special Voting Members Only) **ACTION**
- 4.7 Monthly Expense Report **INFORMATION**
- 4.8 ACE Monthly Ridership **INFORMATION**
- 4.9 ACE Monthly Fare Revenue **INFORMATION**
- 4.10 ACE On-Time Performance **INFORMATION**
- 4.11 Monthly Marketing and Outreach Report **INFORMATION**
- 4.12 Quarterly Report Out of Agreements and Purchases over \$100,000 Executed in the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2025/2026 **INFORMATION**
- 4.13 Station/Facilities Development Committee Report Out **INFORMATION**
- 4.14 Washington Update **INFORMATION**

5. **Adopt a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Valley Construction Services, Inc. for Robert J. Cabral Station Upgrades for an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$1,381,077 and Authorizing the Interim Executive Director, or Designee, to Negotiate, Award, and Execute Any and All Agreements and Documents Related to the Project including Approving Any and All Amendments thereto within Their Spending Authority**  
(Tamika Smith) (Regular Voting Members Only) **ACTION**
6. **Adopt a Resolution Approving Amendment 03 to the Agreement with Ghirardelli Associates, Inc. for Professional Services for the Capital Projects Program Increasing the Compensation Amount by \$2,593,000 for a New Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$4,931,667 and Authorizing the Interim Executive Director, or Designee, to Execute Any and All Documents Related to the Project including Approving any and all Amendments thereto within their Spending Authority**  
(Christine Inouye) (Regular Voting Members Only) **ACTION**
7. **ACE Quarterly Performance Update (July 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025)** **INFORMATION**  
(Nathan Alastra and Marques Cook)
8. **Board Member Comments**
9. **Ex-Officio Comments**
10. **Interim Executive Director’s Report**
11. **Adjournment**  
The next special meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2025 – 10:00 am.  
  
The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2025 – 9:30 am.

**SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION**  
Special Meeting of November 7, 2025

**Item 4.1**

**ACTION**

**Minutes of San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission October 3, 2025 Board Meeting**

The meeting of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (Rail Commission) was held at 9:30 am on October 3, 2025. Board Members attended this meeting via videoconference or in person.

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

**Chair Craig-Hensley**

Chair Craig-Hensley called the meeting to order at 9:33 am and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call**

Commissioners Present: Fugazi, Morowit, Vice-Chair Zuber, Chair Craig-Hensley

Commissioners Absent: Arriola, Ding, Marchand, Salwan

Ex-officios Present: Ken Baxter (SJRTD), Sue Zwahlen (StanCOG)

**3. Public Comment**

Michael Barnbaum, a member of the public, advocated for the expansion of Sacramento-region representation on the board or commissioners.

**4. Consent Calendar**

**ACTION**

4.1 Approve Minutes of San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission September 5, 2025 Board Meeting (Regular and Special Voting Members)

**ACTION**

4.2 Adopt a Resolution Appointing David Lipari as San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission Interim Executive Director and Approving Employment Agreement (Regular Voting Members Only)

**ACTION**

4.3 Adopt a Resolution Authorizing and Approving David Lipari, Interim Executive Director, to Make, Execute, Endorse, and Deliver in the Name of and on Behalf of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, Any and All Written Instruments, Including but not Limited to Agreements, Documents, Deeds, Transfers, Assignments, Contracts, Obligations, Certificates, Certifications and Assurances, and Other Instruments of Whatever Nature that the Executive Director, or Designee is authorized to Enter Into on Behalf of the Rail Commission (Regular Voting Members Only)

**ACTION**

4.4 Adopt a Resolution Ratifying Title Change from "Executive Director" to "Chief Executive Officer" and Approving the Chief Executive Officer Job Description (Regular Voting Members Only)

**ACTION**

4.5	Adopt a Resolution Approving Special Employment Agreement with Stacey Mortensen (Regular Voting Members Only)	<b>ACTION</b>
4.6	Monthly Expense Report	<b>INFORMATION</b>
4.7	ACE Ridership	<b>INFORMATION</b>
4.8	ACE Monthly Fare Revenue	<b>INFORMATION</b>
4.9	ACE On-Time Performance	<b>INFORMATION</b>
4.10	Monthly Marketing and Outreach Support	<b>INFORMATION</b>
4.11	Washington Update	<b>INFORMATION</b>

**M/S/C (Fugazi/Zuber) to approve Items 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, and 4.7-4.11 of the Consent Calendar.**

**Passed and Adopted by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission on October 3, 2025, by the following vote to wit:**

AYES: 4 Fugazi, Morowit, Vice-Chair Zuber, Chair Craig-Hensley  
 NOES: 0  
 ABSTAIN: 0  
 ABSENT: 4 Marchand, Salwan, Arriola, Ding

Commissioner Arriola joined the meeting at 9:41 am.

Chair Craig-Hensley pulled items 4.2 and 4.5 for information and acknowledgement and thanked both Stacey Mortensen and David Lipari for their dedication to the Rail Commission.

There were no public comments.

**M/S/C (Zuber/Fugazi) to approve items 4.2 and 4.5 of the Consent Calendar.**

**Passed and Adopted by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission on September 5, 2025, by the following vote to wit:**

AYES: 5 Arriola, Fugazi, Morowit, Vice-Chair Zuber, Chair Craig-Hensley  
 NOES: 0  
 ABSTAIN: 0  
 ABSENT: 1 Ding

**5. Rail Safety Month Presentation **INFORMATION****

Cameron Paler gave a presentation on this item.

Commissioner Fugazi commended staff's efforts.

Chair Craig-Hensley suggested reaching out to more jurisdictions throughout the corridor to present and offer the officer on board training.

- 6. Discuss and Direction to Staff Regarding the New ACE Ticketing Platform Project – Paper Ticket Transition** **ACTION**
- Nick Perez presented two options for handling existing paper tickets: either extending their validity until December 31, 2026, with no exchanges allowed (Option 1), or offering an exchange program until March 31, 2026, with extended expiration dates (Option 2).
- There were no public comments on this item.
- Chair Craig-Hensley and Commissioner Fugazi raised concerns about the durability of plastic smart cards versus paper tickets, maintenance costs for mechanical validators, and the potential for riders to stockpile tickets. Commissioners requested staff to bring back an action item at a future meeting with the associated costs for each option described.
- 7. Stockton Diamond Grade Separation Project Delivery Update** **INFORMATION**
- Ms. Mortensen gave a presentation on this item.
- There were no public comments on this item.
- Chair Craig-Hensley commended staff for the time extensions granted and work done for the Stockton Diamond Grade Separation Project thus far.
- This was an information item only.
- 8. Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026-2028 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal Setting Methodology Update** **INFORMATION**
- This item was pulled from the agenda and will be presented at a later date.
- 9. ACE Passenger Information Display Systems (PIDS) Overview** **INFORMATION**
- Marques Cook gave a presentation on this item.
- There were no public comments on this item.
- Chair Craig-Hensley stated the independent option outlined in the presentation and staff report would be ideal.
- This was an information item only.
- 10. Recognition of San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission Executive Director’s Service** **PRESENTATION**
- Board members, staff, and members of the public expressed deep appreciation and admiration for Stacey Mortensen’s leadership, vision, and decades of service to the agency.

Commissioner Fugazi thanked Ms. Mortensen for her steadfast dedication to providing reliable and safe transportation in the Valley, emphasizing that her leadership made the agency's success possible and that she has created a path for others to follow.

Commissioner Fugazi left at 11:00 am.

Chair Craig-Hensley echoed the sentiments made by Commissioner Fugazi, commending the strong collaboration within the agency and Ms. Mortensen's prioritization of passengers and staff.

Commissioner Morowit left the meeting at 11:13 am.

Mr. Barnbaum, reflected on his long history with Ms. Mortensen, commending her dedication to the ACE and San Joaquins services, and expressing confidence in her successor, Mr. Lipari.

Dan Schroeder, former General Counsel for the Rail Commission, and a member of the public, recognized Ms. Mortensen's 30 years of invaluable service and institutional knowledge.

Former Rail Commission Chair Nancy Young praised Ms. Mortensen as a phenomenal leader who built a strong foundation, noting that her staff embodies her leadership and dedication.

Commissioner Arriola highlighted the profound impact Stacey has had in Tracy, describing ACE as a vital lifeline and recalling personal memories of her as the "backbone" of the service that changed lives in the community.

Vice-Chair Zuber expressed that the collective presence and heartfelt remarks in the room spoke volumes about her legacy and thanked her for all she has done.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Mortensen expressed gratitude to the staff and board, noting how fortunate the agency has been to have board members willing to work collaboratively and engage directly with staff.

Ms. Mortensen emphasized the unique, supportive culture within the agency and extended special thanks to TASI, acknowledging their long-standing partnership since 1997, which helped strengthen and expand services far beyond expectations. Ms. Mortensen also thanked Dan Leavitt for his pivotal role with the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority and reflected that, through shared effort and resilience, the agency has built the capacity to take on any challenge ahead with confidence.

## **11. Board Member Comments**

Vice-Chair Zuber shared details about the Special Trains event and commended staff for their efforts.

## **12. Ex-Officio Comments**

Sue Zwahlen with StanCOG thanked Ms. Mortensen for her leadership and welcomed Mr. Lipari into his new interim role.

Ken Baxter with SJRTD provided details of the annual employee appreciation and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of public service and commended Ms. Mortensen for her years of service.

Kim Anderson with SJCOG, on behalf of Diane Nguyen, congratulated Ms. Mortensen on her retirement and shared details about SJCOG's regional transportation plan booth at the upcoming Lodi Street Fair.

## **13. Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Mortensen had no items to report.

## **14. CLOSED SESSION**

### **Public Employment - Recruitment**

#### **One Position: Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer**

#### **Conference with General Counsel Janice D. Magdich and Recruiter Gregg Mosser**

#### **Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957**

(Regular and Special Voting Members)

## **15. CLOSED SESSION**

### **Threatened or Anticipated Litigation: Government Code §54956.9(d)(2); One Case; Conference with Legal Counsel regarding Claim filed by Stronghold Engineering, Inc., Alleging Monetary Claims Regarding Project 22-R-1700, Regional Rail Maintenance Facility Expansion**

(Regular Voting Members Only)

## **16. Return to Open Session and Disclosure of Action**

Janice D. Magdich announced the return to open session at 12:30 pm.

Ms. Magdich reported that item 14 was for discussion only, and there were no other reportable actions taken.

Ms. Magdich reported that for item 15, directions were given by the Commission to staff, and that at this time there were no other reportable actions taken.

## **17. Adjournment**

Chair Craig-Hensley adjourned the meeting at 12:31 pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for:  
November 7, 2025 – 9:30 am.

**SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION**  
Special Meeting of November 7, 2025

**Item 4.2**

**ACTION**

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**Minutes of San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission October 22, 2025 Board Special Meeting**

The special meeting of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (Rail Commission) was held at 3:00 pm on October 22, 2025. Board Members attended this meeting in person.

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

**Chair Craig-Hensley**

Chair Craig-Hensley called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call**

Commissioners Present: Fugazi, Vice-Chair Zuber, Chair Craig-Hensley

Commissioners Absent: Arriola, Ding, Morowit, Marchand, Salwan

Ex-officios Present: None

**3. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**4. CLOSED SESSION**

**Public Employment – Recruitment - Interview of Candidates**

**One Position: Chief Executive Officer**

**Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957**

(Regular Voting Members)

Commissioner Arriola arrived at the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

**5. Return to Open Session and Disclosure of Action**

Janice D. Magdich, General Counsel, announced the Board's return to open session at 5:02 p.m., and presented that there were no reportable actions.

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

**SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION**

Special Meeting of November 7, 2025

STAFF REPORT

**Item 4.3**

**ACTION**

**Adopt a Resolution Approving Extended Expiration and No Ticket Exchange of the ACE Legacy Tickets Through December 31, 2026, as Part of the Transition to the New ACE Ticketing Platform Project**

Background:

At the October 3, 2025, Board meeting, Staff provided an update on the New ACE Ticketing Platform project, which will unify both the mobile app and station sales. The new point of sale system will replace and modernize the current paper tickets sold in stations today. ACE's current ticketing system relies on mechanical validators that are beyond end-of-life and are no longer produced. The new ticketing platform will include replacing all mechanical validators and updating paper fare products to Limited Use Media (LUM) smart cards, which will be inspected onboard by the Passenger Services Representatives (PSRs).

The product cost for an Extended Use Media (EUM) is \$1.50 vs a LUM, which is \$0.75. Staff chose the LUM ticket for this project because many of today's paper tickets are used only once or twice (one-way and round-trip). The cost to issue these fares on a LUM is significantly less than issuing them on EUM. LUMs also mirror today's experience, where paper tickets are not reloadable and can be disposed of following their use. EUM would require more expensive printers as well. The first order of 50,000 LUMs was included in the contract with the Vendor.

The current paper tickets issued for ACE travel do not have an expiration date displayed on the tickets and can be used up to three months after a fare increase. After that three-month period, the unused paper tickets hold value, which can be used to upgrade to a new paper ticket until the next fare increase.

Staff presented two options to the board for discussion and direction.

- 1: Extended Expiration + No Exchange; or
- 2: Limited Expiration Extension + Ticket Exchange with Extended Expiration.

Staff were directed to provide a cost breakdown for both options:

<b>Cost</b>	<b>Option #1</b>	<b>Option #2</b>
Staff Time:		
Maintenance (Mechanical Validators)	\$17,000.00	\$ 7,125.00
Ticketing (Process Exchanges)		\$ 30,600.00
Additional LUM Stock Order		\$ 7,500.00
Development Cost ("exchange tickets" with longer than standard expiration date)		\$ 5,000.00
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$17,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 50,225.00</b>

Though Option #2 transitions passengers to the new ticket system quicker and helps onboard staff with less media available for inspection, Staff is recommending Option #1 as it is more cost-effective, less burdensome on Administrative Staff and the development team, and will allow for a longer period of time for passengers to utilize existing paper ticket stock.

Fiscal Impact:

The estimated Fiscal Impact of Option #1 is \$17,000. Expenses and Revenues for Option #1 are identified in the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Approved ACE Operating Budget under the Salaries/Benefits/Contract Help line.

Recommendation:

Adopt a Resolution Approving Extended Expiration and No Ticket Exchange of the ACE Legacy Tickets Through December 31, 2026, as Part of the Transition to the New ACE Ticketing Platform Project.

**SJRRC RESOLUTION 25/26 -**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING EXTENDED EXPIRATION AND NO TICKET EXCHANGE OF THE ACE LEGACY TICKETS THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026, AS PART OF THE TRANSITION TO THE NEW ACE TICKETING PLATFORM PROJECT**

WHEREAS, Staff provided an update on the New ACE Ticketing Platform project which will unify both the mobile app and station sales; and

WHEREAS, the new point of sale system will replace and modernize the current paper tickets sold in stations today; and

WHEREAS, the new ticketing platform will include replacing all mechanical validators and updating paper fare products to Limited Use Media (LUM) smart cards, which will be inspected onboard by the Passenger Services Representatives (PSRs); and

WHEREAS, Staff presented two options to the board for discussion and direction:

- 1: Extended Expiration + No Exchange; or
- 2: Limited Expiration Extension + Ticket Exchange with Extended Expiration; and

WHEREAS, Staff is recommending Option #1 as it is more cost-effective, less burdensome on Administrative Staff and the development team, and will allow for a longer period of time for passengers to utilize existing paper ticket stock; and

WHEREAS, the ACE Legacy paper tickets will expire after December 31, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission hereby Approves the Extended Expiration and No Ticket Exchange of ACE Legacy Tickets Through December 31, 2026, as Part of the Transition to the New ACE Ticketing Platform Project.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL  
RAIL COMMISSION

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DAVID LIPARI, Interim Secretary

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LISA CRAIG-HENSLEY, Chair

# SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION

Special Meeting of November 7, 2025

## STAFF REPORT

### Item 4.4

### ACTION

**Adopt a Resolution Ratifying and Affirming the Interim Executive Director's Action to Submit the 2026 San Joaquin One Voice® Application and Further Authorizing the Interim Executive Director, or Designee, to Negotiate and Execute Any Grant Agreements, Standard Agreements, Program Supplemental Agreements, Fund Exchange Agreements, and/or Fund Transfer Agreements to Obtain the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program Funding in the Amount of \$25 Million Towards the North Lathrop Transfer Station Project**

#### Background:

"San Joaquin One Voice®" is the San Joaquin Council of Governments' (SJCOG) advocacy program for San Joaquin County promoting projects, programs, and issues of regional significance to federal legislators and agencies, typically through an annual trip to Washington, D.C. The purpose of One Voice® is to advocate for new or increased funding and legislation for issues and projects of regional significance to the San Joaquin region. The annual One Voice® trip to Washington, D.C. is tentatively scheduled for May 4-6, 2026.

The SJCOG Board approved the following project criteria for San Joaquin One Voice®:

- Be regional in nature and have a federal nexus.
- Must be at or near completion of National Environmental Policy Act clearance, or qualified waiver, for projects seeking right-of-way or construction funding.
- Be sufficiently developed to suggest federal assistance is warranted (shovel-ready).
- Explain whether the sponsor is utilizing any formula funding for the project elements and detail how formula funds are being applied. If not utilizing formula funds, explain why formula funds are not being applied to the project.
- Projects should be targeted for appropriations in the Federal Fiscal Year 2026 budget or an upcoming notice of agency funding opportunity.
- Demonstrated community support.
- Identify if a project can be submitted as an "earmark" if a congressional call for projects is announced.

San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (Rail Commission) staff will submit a 2026 SJCOG One Voice® application for the North Lathrop Transfer Station Project (Project) by November 14, 2025 (the deadline for project submittals). Board approval is required for the One Voice® application. Rail Commission staff expects to submit a \$25 million grant application in early 2026 for the US Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program to implement the Project and would greatly appreciate One Voice® support for this important Project. BUILD funding would be matched with state funds to complete this project.

The Project is a key component of the Valley Rail Expansion Program, an ambitious expansion of commuter and intercity rail services in the Northern California Megaregion. The transfer station will enable transfers between northbound ACE trains (Merced to Natomas) and southbound ACE trains (Stockton/Natomas to San Jose). The Project will comprise the construction of a new station facility, including station track, a new center platform, a bus transfer center, parking, an access road, and bike and pedestrian access facilities. The station is planned to serve as a multi-modal transfer station between planned ACE services between Stanislaus County and Sacramento, and ACE service to the San Francisco Bay Area.

The Project enhances commuter and future intercity passenger rail connectivity and transit access in the San Joaquin Valley, including new service for disadvantaged communities in the corridor. The Project reduces vehicle miles traveled, lowers emissions, and encourages transit-oriented development in the station area. The Project is a critical component of the transformative, megaregional Valley Rail Program that helps further the State's vision for an integrated rail network and provides direct mobility and air quality benefits to citizens in nine (9) counties, including over 30% of the disadvantaged communities in California.

### North Lathrop Transfer Station Project

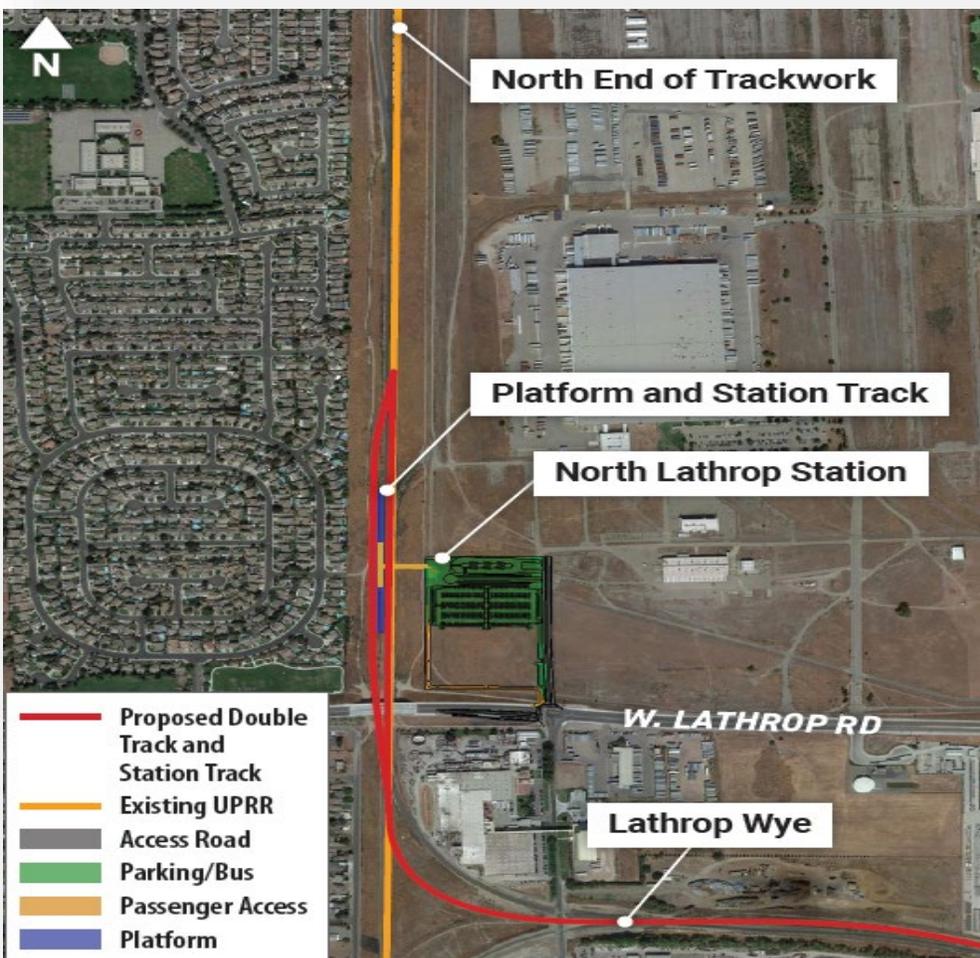


Figure 4: North Lathrop Transfer Station

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact.

Recommendation:

Adopt a Resolution Ratifying and Affirming the Interim Executive Director's Action to Submit the 2026 San Joaquin One Voice® Application and Further Authorizing the Interim Executive Director, or Designee, to Negotiate and Execute Any Grant Agreements, Standard Agreements, Program Supplemental Agreements, Fund Exchange Agreements, and/or Fund Transfer Agreements to Obtain the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program Funding in the Amount of \$25 Million Towards the North Lathrop Transfer Station Project.

**SJRRRC RESOLUTION 25/26 -**

**RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND AFFIRMING THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ACTION TO SUBMIT THE 2026 SAN JOAQUIN ONE VOICE® APPLICATION AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OR DESIGNEE, TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ANY GRANT AGREEMENTS, STANDARD AGREEMENTS, PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENTS, FUND EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS, AND/OR FUND TRANSFER AGREEMENTS TO OBTAIN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S (USDOT) FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2026 BETTER UTILIZING INVESTMENTS TO LEVERAGE DEVELOPMENT (BUILD) GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25 MILLION TOWARDS THE NORTH LATHROP TRANSFER STATION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, "San Joaquin One Voice®" is the San Joaquin Council of Governments' (SJCOG) advocacy program for San Joaquin County promoting projects, programs, and issues of regional significance to federal legislators and agencies, typically through an annual trip to Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of One Voice® is to advocate for new or increased funding and legislation for issues and projects of regional significance to the San Joaquin region; and

WHEREAS, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (Rail Commission) staff will submit a 2026 SJCOG One Voice® application for the North Lathrop Transfer Station Project (Project) by November 21, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Rail Commission staff expects to submit a \$25 million application in early 2026 for the US Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program to implement the Project and would greatly appreciate One Voice® support for this important Project; and

WHEREAS, the Project is a critical component of the transformative, megaregional, Valley Rail program that helps further the State's vision for an integrated rail network and provides direct mobility and air quality benefits to citizens in nine (9) counties, including over 30% of the disadvantaged communities in California; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission hereby Approves Ratifying and Affirming the Interim Executive Director's Action to Submit the 2026 San Joaquin One Voice® Application and Further Authorizing the Interim Executive Director, or Designee, to Negotiate and Execute Any Grant Agreements, Standard Agreements, Program Supplemental Agreements, Fund Exchange Agreements, and/or Fund Transfer Agreements to Obtain the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program Funding in the Amount of \$25 Million Towards the North Lathrop Transfer Station Project.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

ATTEST:

SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL  
RAIL COMMISSION

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DAVID LIPARI, Interim Secretary

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LISA CRAIG-HENSLEY, Chair

# SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION

Special Meeting of November 7, 2025

## STAFF REPORT

### Item 4.5

### ACTION

**Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Interim Executive Director, or Designee, to Submit and Execute Any and All Grant Applications, Agreements, Certifications and Assurances, and any Other Documents Necessary to Obtain Financial Assistance Provided by the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) Under the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP)**

#### Background:

The State administers numerous funding programs that provide critical funding for transportation projects throughout the San Joaquins Corridor, with many of the programs administered by the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California Transportation Commission (CTC). One such example is Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP).

TIRCP was created by Senate Bill (SB) 862 (Chapter 36, Statutes of 2014) and modified by Senate Bill 9 (Chapter 710, Statutes of 2015) to provide grants from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction. On April 30, 2024, CalSTA issued the final guidelines and a call for projects for the 2024 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) with an application deadline of July 23, 2024. The goal of the TIRCP is to provide funding for intercity, commuter, and urban rail systems, and bus and ferry transit to achieve the following objectives:

- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions;
- Expand and improve rail service to increase ridership;
- Integrate the rail service of the state's various rail operations, including integration with the high-speed rail system; and
- Improve transit safety

The execution of the Master Agreement with CalSTA on June 4, 2020 expires next fiscal year on July 31, 2026. Before this expiration date, a new agreement must be executed to continue work on TIRCP-funded projects such as the Valley Rail Program. Based on the direction from Caltrans, drafting the new agreement with Caltrans requires a board resolution to authorize the Interim Executive Director, or Designee, to sign and execute these grant applications, agreements, and other necessary documents. Any and all contracts or agreements expending funds will be submitted to the Board for approval.

#### Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact.

#### Recommendation:

Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Interim Executive Director, or Designee, to Submit and Execute Any and All Grant Applications, Agreements, Certifications and Assurances, and any Other Documents Necessary to Obtain Financial Assistance Provided by the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) Under the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP).

**SJRRC RESOLUTION 25/26 –**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OR DESIGNEE TO SUBMIT AND EXECUTE ANY AND ALL GRANT APPLICATIONS, AGREEMENTS, CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES, AND ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY (CALSTA) UNDER THE TRANSIT AND INTERCITY RAIL CAPITAL PROGRAM (TIRCP)**

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (Rail Commission) previously executed a Master Agreement with the State of California to accept State funds which is set to expire July 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Rail Commission may receive state funding from the California Department of Transportation (Department) now or sometime in the future for transit projects; and

WHEREAS, substantial revisions were made to the programming and funding process for the transportation projects programmed in the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), by Chapter 36 (SB 862) of the Statutes of 2014; and

WHEREAS, the statutes related to state-funded transit projects require a local or regional implementing agency to execute an agreement with the Department before it can be reimbursed for project expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the Department utilizes Master Agreements for State-Funded Transit Projects, along with associated Program Supplements, for the purpose of administering and reimbursing state transit funds to local agencies; and

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC) wishes to delegate authorization to execute these agreements and any amendments thereto to the Interim Executive Director, or Designee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission that the fund recipient agrees to comply with all conditions and requirements set forth in this agreement and applicable statutes, regulations and guidelines for all state-funded transit projects; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Interim Executive Director, or Designee, to Submit and Execute Any and All Grant Applications, Agreements, Certifications and Assurances, and any Other Documents Necessary to Obtain Financial Assistance Provided by the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) Under the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP).

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission on this 7th day of November 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL  
RAIL COMMISSION

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DAVID LIPARI, Interim Secretary

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LISA CRAIG-HENSLEY, Chair

# SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION

Special Meeting of November 7, 2025

## STAFF REPORT

### Item 4.6

### ACTION

**Adopt a Resolution Ratifying and Affirming the Interim Executive Director's Action to Submit the 2025 Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) Regional Project Prioritization Program (RPPP) Application for the Del Paso Siding and Track and Signaling Improvements Projects and Further Authorizing the Interim Executive Director, or Designee, to Negotiate and Execute Any Grant Agreements, Standard Agreements, Program Supplemental Agreements, Fund Exchange Agreements, and/or Fund Transfer Agreements to Obtain the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program Funding in the Amount of \$105 Million**

#### Background:

The Regional Project Prioritization Program (RPPP) is the Sacramento Area Council of Governments' (SACOG) list of highest-level project and funding support for advocacy and technical assistance for promoting projects, programs, and issues of regional significance to federal legislators and agencies, typically through an annual trip to Washington, D.C. (Cap-to-Cap). The purpose of Cap-to-Cap is to advocate for new or increased funding and legislation for issues and projects of regional significance to the Sacramento region. The annual Cap-to-Cap trip to Washington, D.C. is tentatively scheduled for April 18-22, 2026.

The SACOG Board approved the following project criteria for RPPP:

- Projects must be located within the six-county region and be listed in the MTP/SCS or fit within a lump-sum project category. Lump sum project categories are:
  - Road maintenance and reconstruction
  - Transit vehicle replacements
  - Operational improvements
  - Intelligent Transportation Systems
  - Bicycle and pedestrian investments

For projects that are not exempt from air quality conformity in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), the open-to-traffic year must match the current MTP/SCS or current MTIP. Projects exempt from air quality conformity are not subject to this requirement.

- Projects must be federal-aid eligible for federal funding programs or state transportation funding eligible, and applicant agencies must be able to receive federal funds.
- All SACOG member agencies in the six-county region, Caltrans District 3, and transit districts are eligible to apply. Other special districts and other public organizations (e.g., air districts, JPAs, transportation management organizations, BIDs) are also eligible to apply if they are eligible under the identified federal or state funding program.
- The project sponsor must identify a specific state or federal grant funding program in the

project application; the project must meet the eligibility requirements of the grant funding program. (This requirement does not apply to submittals in the Projects in Development category.)

San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (Rail Commission) staff has submitted a 2025 SACOG RPPP application for the Del Paso siding and Track and Signal Improvements projects (Project) by October 24, 2025 (the deadline for project submittals). Board approval is required for the RPPP application. Rail Commission staff expects to submit a \$105 million grant application in early 2026 for the Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program to implement the Project and would greatly appreciate support from SACOG through the RPPP process for this important Project. CRISI funding would be matched with state funds to complete this project.

The Project is a key component of the Valley Rail Expansion Program, an ambitious expansion of commuter and intercity rail services in the Northern California Megaregion. The siding, track, and signaling projects together are required to implement the initial phase of Valley Rail service to Sacramento and enable faster travel and more efficient travel between the Sacramento region, the San Joaquin Valley, and Bay Area for both ACE and Gold Runner trains. The improvements will also enhance freight movements on the Sacramento subdivision. The Project includes construction of a siding extension between the Midtown and Natomas stations of the Valley Rail Program, as well as track and signaling upgrades at various locations on the Sacramento subdivision to accommodate increased train speeds and safer operations.

The Project has the added benefit of broader connectivity to the local transit network along the corridor and in the many adjacent disadvantaged communities served by the route. The Project reduces vehicle miles traveled, lowers emissions, and encourages transit-oriented development in the station areas along the Valley Rail corridor. The Project is a critical component of the transformative, megaregional Valley Rail Program that helps further the State's vision for an integrated rail network and provides direct mobility and air quality benefits to citizens in nine counties, including over 30% of the disadvantaged communities in California.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact.

Recommendation:

Adopt a Resolution Ratifying and Affirming the Interim Executive Director's Action to Submit the 2025 Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) Regional Project Prioritization Program (RPPP) Application for the Del Paso Siding and Track and Signaling Improvements Projects and Further Authorizing the Interim Executive Director, or Designee, to Negotiate and Execute Any Grant Agreements, Standard Agreements, Program Supplemental Agreements, Fund Exchange Agreements, and/or Fund Transfer Agreements to Obtain the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program Funding in the Amount of \$105 Million.

**SJRRRC RESOLUTION 25/26 -**

**RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND AFFIRMING THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ACTION TO SUBMIT THE 2025 SACRAMENTO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SACOG) REGIONAL PROGRAM PRIORITIZATION PROGRAM (RPPP) APPLICATION FOR THE DEL PASO SIDING AND TRACK AND SIGNALING IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ANY GRANT AGREEMENTS, STANDARD AGREEMENTS, PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENTS, FUND EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS, AND/OR FUND TRANSFER AGREEMENTS TO OBTAIN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S (USDOT) FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2026 CONSOLIDATED RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS (CRISI) GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$105 MILLION**

WHEREAS, Regional Program Prioritization Program (RPPP) is the Sacramento Area Council of Governments' (SACOG) advocacy program for the Sacramento region to promote projects, programs, and issues of regional significance to federal legislators and agencies, typically through an annual trip to Washington, D.C. called Cap-to-Cap; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Cap-to-Cap is to advocate for new or increased funding and legislation for issues and projects of regional significance to the Sacramento region; and

WHEREAS, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (Rail Commission) staff will submit a RPPP application for the Del Paso Siding and Track and Signaling Improvements (Project) by October 24, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Rail Commission staff expects to submit a \$105 million application in early 2026 for Department of Transportation's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program to implement the Project and would greatly appreciate SACOG's full support for this important Project; and

WHEREAS, the Project is critical component of the transformative, megaregional, Valley Rail program that helps further the State's vision for an integrated rail network and provides direct mobility and air quality benefits to citizens in nine counties, including over 30% of the disadvantaged communities in California.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission hereby Approves Ratifying and Affirming the Interim Executive Director's Action to Submit the 2025 Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) Regional Program Prioritization Program (RPPP) Application for the Del Paso Siding and Track and Signaling Improvements Projects and Further Authorizing the Interim Executive Director to Negotiate and Execute Any Grant Agreements, Standard Agreements, Program Supplemental Agreements, Fund Exchange Agreements, and/or Fund Transfer Agreements to Obtain the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program Funding in the Amount of \$105 Million.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL  
RAIL COMMISSION

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DAVID LIPARI, Interim Secretary

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LISA CRAIG-HENSLEY, Chair

**San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission  
ACE  
Rail Support Services  
TRACC  
Operating Expense Report  
AUGUST 2025  
17% of Budget Year Elapsed**

SJRRRC OPERATING EXPENSES	FY 25-26 BUDGET	EXPENSE THRU AUGUST 2025	% SPENT TO DATE
Project Management, Services & Supplies Subtotal	\$ 6,501,526	\$ 835,894	13%
Contracted Services Subtotal	\$ 633,475	\$ 52,074	8%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 7,135,001</b>	<b>\$ 887,968</b>	<b>12%</b>

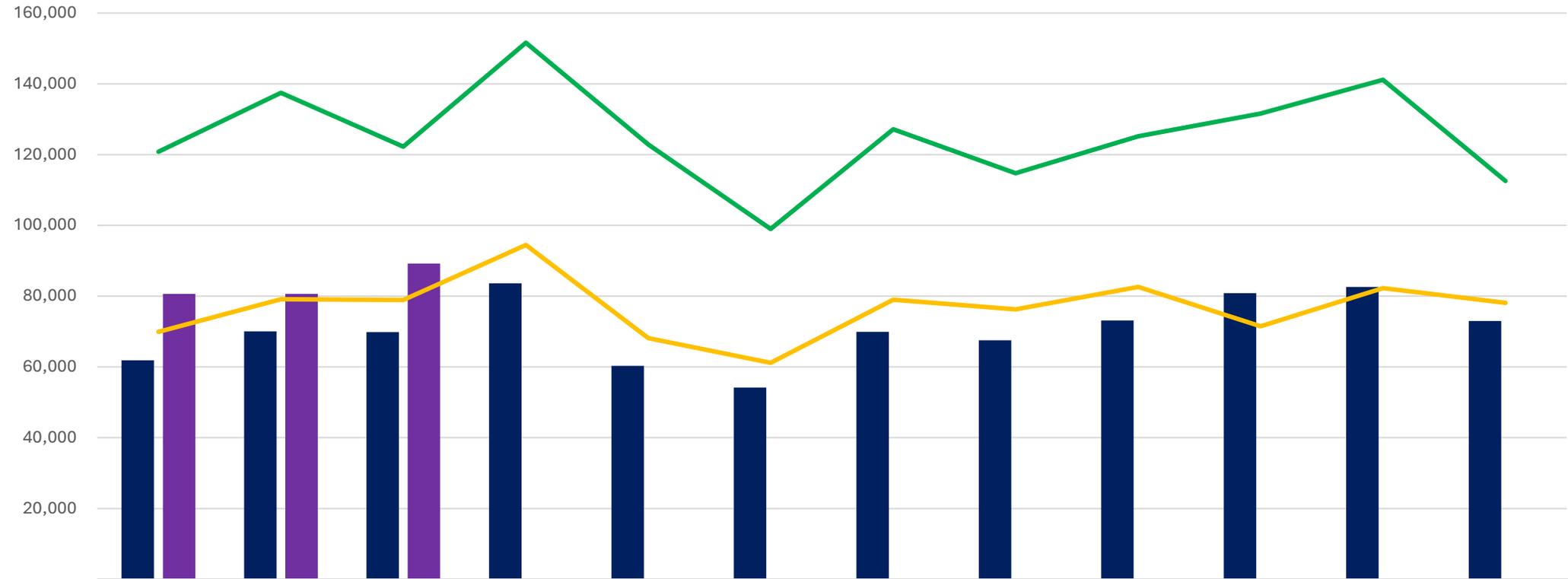
ACE OPERATING EXPENSES	FY 25-26 BUDGET	EXPENSE THRU AUGUST 2025	% SPENT TO DATE
Project Management, Services & Supplies Subtotal	\$ 5,949,952	\$ 809,634	14%
Contracted Services Subtotal	\$ 32,236,765	\$ 4,510,119	14%
Shuttle Services	\$ 3,219,900	\$ 536,650	17%
Capital Access	\$ 3,242,516	\$ 540,419	17%
Capital Maintenance	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 750,000	17%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 49,149,134</b>	<b>\$ 7,146,823</b>	<b>15%</b>

RAIL SUPPORT SERVICES OPERATING EXPENSES	FY 25-26 BUDGET	EXPENSE THRU AUGUST 2025	% SPENT TO DATE
Project Management, Services & Supplies Subtotal	\$ 787,005	10,149	1%
Contracted Services Subtotal	\$ 95,496,543	\$ 5,172,310	5%
<b>TOTAL RSS EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 96,283,548</b>	<b>\$ 5,182,459</b>	<b>5%</b>

\*RSS - Work Contracted with Caltrans; State-owned Venture car Pre Revenue "acceptance" and Post Revenue "ongoing" maintenance.

TRACC OPERATING EXPENSES	FY 25-26 BUDGET	EXPENSE THRU AUGUST 2025	% SPENT TO DATE
Project Management, Services & Supplies Subtotal	-	1,690	0%
Contracted Services Subtotal	\$ 620,000	\$ 7,301	1%
<b>TOTAL CONTRACTED SERVICES EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 620,000</b>	<b>\$ 8,991</b>	<b>1%</b>

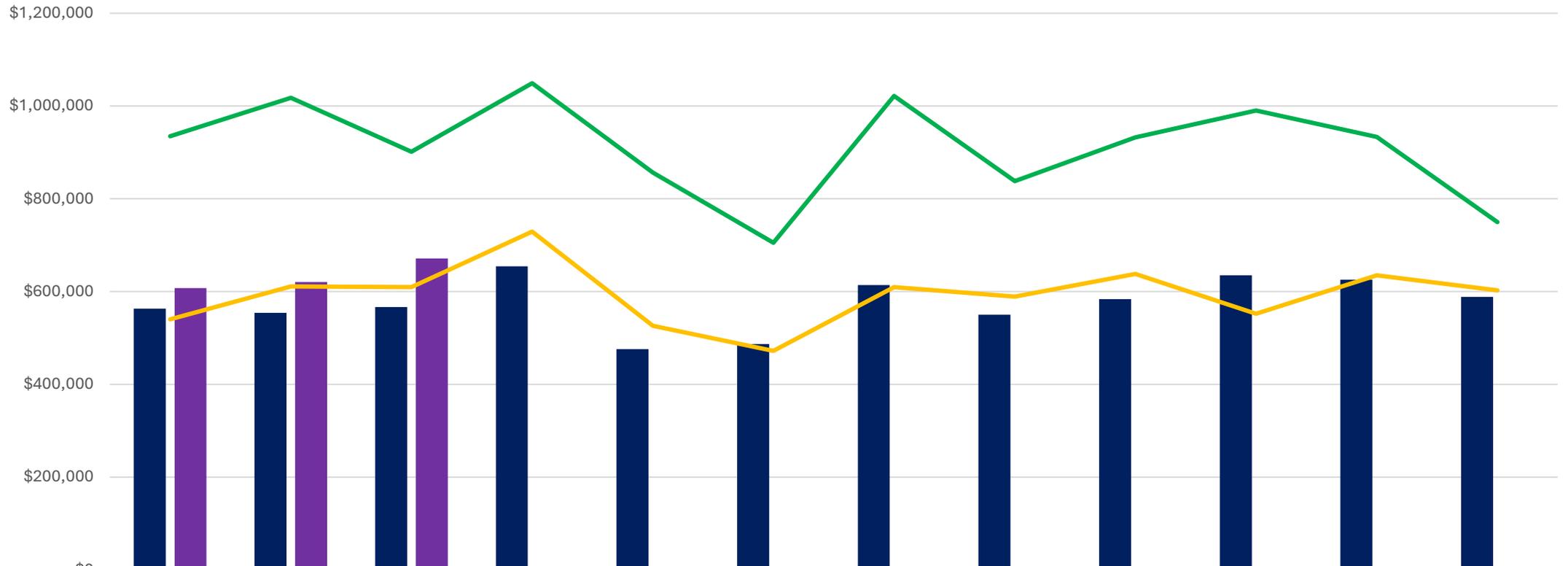
# ACE Monthly Ridership



	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	Total
FY 24/25	61,892	70,039	69,845	83,594	60,312	54,120	69,879	67,496	73,119	80,829	82,570	72,967	846,662
FY 25/26	80,599	80,626	89,231										250,456
FY 25/26 Forecast	69,938	79,144	78,925	94,461	68,153	61,156	78,963	76,270	82,624	71,497	82,244	78,074	921,449
FY18/19 (Pre-Pandemic)	120,779	137,442	122,227	151,604	122,880	98,973	127,130	114,725	125,199	131,558	141,113	112,573	1,506,203



# ACE Monthly Revenue

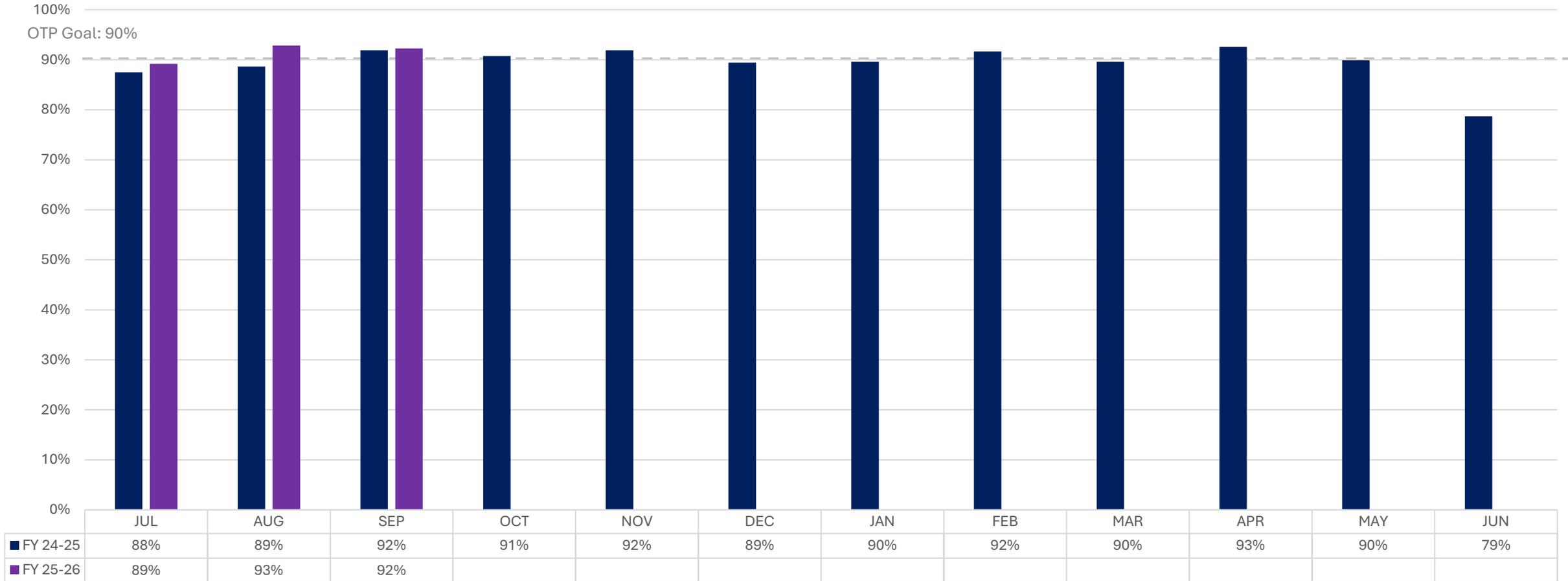


	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	Total
FY 24/25	\$563,073	\$554,275	\$566,474	\$654,322	\$475,942	\$486,864	\$613,911	\$550,131	\$583,629	\$634,729	\$625,418	\$588,682	\$6,897,450
FY 25/26	\$607,691	\$620,244	\$671,306										\$1,899,241
FY 25/26 Forecast	\$539,921	\$610,992	\$609,300	\$729,241	\$526,138	\$472,121	\$609,596	\$588,808	\$637,861	\$551,960	\$634,921	\$602,731	\$7,113,590
FY18/19 (Pre-Pandemic)	\$934,823	\$1,017,601	\$901,396	\$1,049,117	\$856,601	\$705,227	\$1,021,424	\$837,812	\$932,548	\$990,292	\$933,163	\$749,848	\$10,929,84



# ACE On-Time Performance

ACE On-Time Performance



**SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION**

Special Meeting of November 7, 2025

STAFF REPORT

**Item 4.11**

**INFORMATION**

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**Monthly Marketing and Outreach Report**

Background:

San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission’s local, embedded grassroots Outreach Consultant/Team is responsible for leading agency outreach efforts along the ACE route, marketing and promoting the ACE service and its programs, supporting employer outreach, serving as liaison with stakeholders, developing partnerships to promote destination travel, maintaining a contact database, and submitting monthly reports.

**November 2025**

Upcoming Outreach Events Overview:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Type</b>
<b>Family Resource Center</b>	November 6, 2025	Networking
<b>Women United Legacy Celebration</b>	November 13, 2025	Networking
<b>Las Positas College 2025 Open House</b>	November 15, 2025	Community Outreach
<b>Lincoln Center Christmas Fair</b>	November 15, 2025	Community Outreach

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact.

Recommendation:

This is an informational item. There is no action required.

**SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION**

Special Meeting of November 7, 2025

STAFF REPORT

**Item 4.12**

**INFORMATION**

**Quarterly Report Out of Agreements and Purchases over \$100,000 Executed in the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2025/2026**

Background:

In March 2022, the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (Rail Commission) approved the Expenditure Authority for the Executive Director and Staff Directors, which repealed previous resolutions and increased the approval threshold from \$75,000 to \$250,000. Agreements, amendments, and purchases over \$250,000 are brought to the Board for approval and authorization of the Executive Director, or designee, to award and execute.

The March 2022 action also increased the amount required to be reported to the Board to include purchases over \$100,000 and under the Executive Director's threshold of \$250,000. The actual number of purchases that fall within that amount is small due to staff reporting most items to the Board regardless of the amount. This report is provided quarterly.

Please refer to Attachment A for the list of purchases that fall into the range of \$100,000 and \$250,000 that were executed during the first quarter of FY25/26 (July 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025).

Staff will continue to report to the Board quarterly on the previous quarter's contracts and purchases.

Fiscal Impact:

Expenses and Revenues for these agreements, amendments, and purchases are identified in the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Operating and Capital Budgets.

Recommendation:

This is an informational item. There is no action requested.

## Attachment A

<u>PO/Agreement Number</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Type of Purchase</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>New Not to Exceed (if applicable)</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Operating or Capital</u>
11514	TransitAmerica Services, Inc.	Special Train Services	Services	\$ 159,000.00	N/A	7/1/2025	Operating
19-R-03-08-0-10	Mark Thomas & Company, Inc	Amend 10 - Additional Scope of Services	Services	\$ 248,387.00	\$ 6,960,620.00	7/30/2025	Capital
23-R-28-01	J&S Building Maintenance, Inc.	Amend 01 - Term Extension	Services	\$ 146,040.00	\$ 435,180.00	7/1/2025	Operating
25-R-57-01	Euna Solutions Inc	Amend 01 - Additional Services	Services	\$ 114,455.00	\$ 341,250.00	8/11/2025	Operating
26-J-40-00	National Railroad Passenger	Construction/Construction Management	Services	\$ 104,000.00	N/A	9/18/2025	Capital
26-R-19-00	Infinity Technologies	IT Services	Services	\$ 246,348.00	N/A	7/1/2025	Operating

# SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION

Special Meeting of November 7, 2025

## STAFF REPORT

### Item 4.13

### INFORMATION

#### **San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission Station/Facilities Development Committee Monthly Report Out**

##### Background:

The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission Station/Facilities Development Committee (Committee) was established by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (Rail Commission) to delegate decision-making on the stations and facilities associated with the Valley Rail Program to a small group of elected officials affected by the service expansion. The state statutory deadlines for new rail service to Ceres and Merced/Natomas require a focused effort and significant coordination with numerous cities within three counties.

The four-member Committee includes representatives from Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Sacramento counties. Leo Zuber (Ripon) was appointed and serves as Chair and Lisa Craig-Hensley (Lodi) was appointed and serves as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

In July of 2024, the Rail Commission requested that staff provide the Board with monthly summaries of Committee activities. Attached are approved meeting Minutes from the Committee's August 1, 2025 special meeting. The October 3, 2025, meeting Minutes will be presented to the Committee for approval at the next scheduled meeting and will be included as an information item on the Rail Commission's Consent Calendar thereafter.

##### Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact.

##### Recommendation:

This is an informational item. There is no action requested.

**SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION  
STATION/FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
Meeting of October 3, 2025

**Item 3.1**

**ACTION**

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**Minutes of Committee Special Meeting August 1, 2025**

The special meeting of the Station/Facilities Development Committee (Committee) was held at 11:00 am on August 1, 2025. Committee Members attended this meeting in person.

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

**Chair Zuber**

Chair Zuber called the meeting to order at 11:01 am.

Board Members Present: Chiesa, Hume, Vice-Chair Craig-Hensley,  
Chair Zuber

Board Members Absent: None

**2. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**3. Consent Calendar**

3.1 Minutes of Committee Meeting May 2, 2025

**ACTION**

There were no comments on this item.

**M/S/C (Craig-Hensley/Hume) to approve Item 3.1 of the Consent Calendar.**

**Passed and Adopted as amended by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission Station/Facilities Development Committee on August 1, 2025, by the following vote to wit:**

AYES: 4 Chiesa, Hume, Vice-Chair Craig-Hensley, Chair Zuber  
NOES: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 0

**4. Adopt a Resolution Approving an Agreement with RailPros Inc. for Project Development Support Services (PDSS) for Sacramento City College Project for an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$1,699,820 and Authorizing the Executive Director or Designee to Negotiate, Award, and Execute Any and All Agreements and Documents Related to the Project including Approving Any and All Amendments thereto within Her Spending Authority**

**ACTION**

Christine Inouye and Autumn Gowan gave a presentation on this item.

Member Hume asked why the first firm did not receive the award for this project.

Ms. Gowan stated the Rail Commission and initial vendor could not come to an agreement on the requested work.

There were no comments on this item.

**M/S/C (Chiesa/Craig-Hensley) to Adopt a Resolution Approving an Agreement with RailPros Inc. for Project Development Support Services (PDSS) for Sacramento City College Project for an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$1,699,820 and Authorizing the Executive Director or Designee to Negotiate, Award, and Execute Any and All Agreements and Documents Related to the Project including Approving Any and All Amendments thereto within Her Spending Authority.**

**Passed and Adopted by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission Station/Facilities Development Committee on August 1, 2025, by the following vote to wit:**

AYES: 4 Chiesa, Hume, Vice-Chair Craig-Hensley, Chair Zuber  
NOES: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 0

**5. Pedestrian Shelters for the Valley Rail Program Update**

**ACTION**

David Lipari gave a presentation on this item.

Chair Zuber asked for clarification on if the varying dollar amounts listed for the differing shelters were per station or per structure.

Mr. Lipari stated the price listed would be for each individual structure and its installation.

Vice-Chair Craig-Hensley asked if the bus shelters and platform shelters would be different and whether the bus shelters would be on Rail Commission-owned property or on city property.

Mr. Lipari explained the Rail Commission would only be procuring shelters on agency-owned property and that the shelter design would be dependent on Committee Member input.

Vice-Chair Craig-Hensley stated the pre-fabricated option would likely be best for the bus shelters and the contractor-built option with wind screening would be best for the platform shelters.

Member Hume echoed Vice-Chair Craig-Hensley's statements and added that he would like to see if each proposed station's element of distinction can be added to the contractor-built shelters at a reasonable cost.

Chair Zuber stressed the importance of ACE and the San Joaquins station distinction and stated having the customizable contractor-built shelters for the platforms would be ideal.

Member Chiesa agreed.

There were no public comments on this item.

This was an information item only.

## **6. Committee Member Comments**

There were no comments.

## **7. CLOSED SESSION**

**Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8**

**Property: Acquisition of Additional Railroad Right-of-Way and Tracks (Trackage Rights) within the Valley Rail Project Corridor, including but not limited to Sacramento Subdivision between El Pinal near Stockton (Mile Post 95) and Natomas (Mile Post 147); Fresno Subdivision Between El Pinal in Stockton (Mile Post 83) and the Lathrop UP Connection (Mile Post 84.5); and Fresno Subdivision Between the Lathrop UP Connection (Mile Post 84.5) and Turlock (Mile Post 129)**

**Agency Negotiator: Stacey Mortensen, Executive Director**

**Negotiating Party: Union Pacific Railroad Company, a Delaware corporation**

**Under negotiation: Price and payment terms**

### **Return to Open Session and Disclosure of Action**

The Committee returned to the open session at 12:34 pm and Janice D. Magdich announced directions were given by the Committee members to staff and there were no other reportable actions.

## **8. Adjournment**

Chair Zuber adjourned the meeting at 12:35 pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for:  
September 5, 2025 – 11:30 am

PREPARED BY TAI GINSBERG &  
ASSOCIATES, LLC



OCT  
2025

# MONTHLY REPORT

LATEST LEGISLATIVE &  
REGULATORY UPDATES

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## OCTOBER PRIORITIES

In contrast to September's active legislative schedule, October has seen a notable slowdown on regular congressional activity due to the federal government shutdown. Six years after the previous shutdown, this year's funding lapse began on October 1, when the Senate failed to pass a continuing resolution (CR) before the September 30 fiscal year deadline. Since then, the House has been in recess, while the Senate has intermittently convened for 13 (and counting) failed attempts on the House-approved funding measure. The current shutdown has now become the second-longest in U.S. history.

Amid the shutdown, the Senate proceeded with limited legislative business, confirming a handful of nominees along party lines, including the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Administrator David Fink, and on October 9, it easily passed the FY 2026 [National Defense Authorization Act](#) (NDAA) with a bipartisan vote of 77 to 20.

## LOOKING FORWARD

With the shutdown diverting congressional attention and pausing most legislative business, progress on the 2026 surface transportation reauthorization may be delayed. However, Senate Environment & Public Works Committee Chair Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) has affirmed the committee's goal of holding a markup on their bill before the end of the year.

The shutdown's impact will also likely lead to a delay in announcing funding opportunities and grant winners. We will continue to monitor the situation.

# GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN



## OVERVIEW

On October 1, the federal government shut down after the Senate failed to pass the House-approved clean continuing resolution (CR) ([H.R. 5371](#)). The CR sought to extend current government funding through November 21. This marks the first shutdown in six years and is currently the second-longest in U.S. history. If the government hasn't reopened by Nov. 5, it will become the longest shutdown in history.

Senate Democrats are leveraging the chamber's 60-vote threshold as bargaining power to push for an extension of expiring Affordable Care Act (ACA) tax credits that decrease health insurance premiums. Republican Members and the White House are holding firm in their position to pass a clean continuing resolution (CR) - opposing the inclusion of any ACA subsidy extensions.



*Axios, 10/27/25*

The Senate has now held 13 failed votes to advance measures to reopen the government. Each attempt fell five or six votes short of the 60 required to end debate. The votes are largely split along party lines, with Senators Cortez Masto (D-NV), Fetterman (D-PA), and King (I-ME) voting in favor, and Senator Paul (R-KY) opposing them. On October 28, the chamber voted 54-45 on H.R. 5371, which would continue federal funding through November 21.

On October 23, Senate Democrats blocked Senator Ron Johnson's Shutdown Fairness Act ([S. 3012](#)), legislation to ensure pay for active-duty service members and essential federal employees who have been required to work during the government shutdown. The bill failed by a largely party-line vote of 54-45, reflecting continued partisan division as Republicans sought renewed negotiations and Democrats maintained their position.

**13 VOTES**  
 NUMBER OF FAILED VOTES THE  
 SENATE HAS TAKEN TO RE-OPEN  
 THE GOVERNMENT

**2ND  
 LONGEST**  
 SHUTDOWN IN U.S.  
 HISTORY

**54-45**  
 MOST RECENT FAILED  
 SENATE VOTE SPLIT

# GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN



## PROSPECT OF A DEAL

When House Republicans advanced the CR last month, it was structured to provide Congress a seven-week window to negotiate a comprehensive funding agreement. With the shutdown deadline now approaching the original November 21 expiration, a growing number of Republicans acknowledge that an additional, longer stopgap bill will be needed. However, conference members remain divided over the duration of a new CR, as bipartisan negotiations to reopen the government have largely stalled.

One of Democrats’ tenants for reopening the government is ensuring that prior appropriations are actually honored — that funds are not clawed back or rescinded. That stance reflects ongoing concerns about executive overreach following the Trump Administration’s August pocket recissions, which withdrew billions from foreign aid programs and have raised concerns about the stability and trust in the appropriations process and Congress’ constitutional “power of the purse.”

House GOP leaders are discussing potential new funding deadlines ranging from mid-December to deep into 2026. In an effort to secure Democratic support for a short-term funding extension, Republican leaders have offered to hold a separate vote on extending key health insurance subsidies. Adjusting the CR’s end date would also require the House to reconvene from its month-long shutdown recess to take up and approve the measure.



*Speaker Johnson, 10/27/25*



*Politico, 10/28/25*

# APPROPRIATIONS & BUDGET UPDATES

Updated Appropriations FY24-FY26											
	FY2024			FY2025			FY 2026				
	IIJA Advance Approps	Final Approps bill	Total Funding	IIJA Advance Approps	Final Approps Bill	Total Funding	IIJA Advance Approps	President Request	House	Senate	Amtrak request
USDOT BUILD	\$1.5b	\$345m	\$1.8b	\$1.5b	\$345m	\$1.8b	\$1.5b	\$0	\$0	\$250m	-
USDOT MEGA	\$1b	\$0	\$1b	\$1b	\$0	\$1b	\$1b	\$0	\$0	\$0	-
Amtrak NEC	\$1.2b	\$1.14b	\$2.3b	\$1.2b	\$1.14b	\$2.3b	\$1.2b	\$850m	\$925m	\$850m	\$850m
Amtrak National Network	\$3.2b	\$1.29b	\$4.5b	\$3.2b	\$1.29b	\$4.5b	\$3.2b	\$1.58b	\$1.388b	\$1.58b	\$1.58b
FRA CRISI	\$1b	\$199m	\$1.2b	\$1b	\$100m	\$1.1b	\$1b	\$500m	\$538m	\$151.5m	-
FRA Fed-State Partnership	\$7.2b	\$75m	\$7.3b	\$7.2b	\$75m	\$7.3b	\$7.2b	\$0	(\$75m)	\$75m	-
FRA Rail Restoration & Enhancement	\$50m	\$0	\$50m	\$50m	\$0	\$50m	\$50m	\$0	\$0	\$0	-
FRA Rail Crossing Elimination	\$600m	\$0	\$600m	\$600m	\$0	\$600m	\$600m	\$0	\$0	\$0	-

## APPROPRIATIONS UPDATES

While the House has been in recess this month, the Senate has remained in session and continued legislative business.

Although the annual Defense Appropriations Act (H.R. 4016) passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on a 26-3 vote, floor consideration stalled after Senators failed to bring it to a vote on October 16. The vote to invoke cloture failed 50-44, and Leader Thune’s (R-SD) motion to reconsider the vote was not invoked.



*Politico, 10/21/25*

# SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Despite the government shutdown, the extended House recess, and the continuing stand-off in the Senate, congressional staff are negotiating behind the scenes on transportation reauthorization program authorities and funding levels to replace the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) authorizations set to expire in September 2026.

With the shutdown consuming most of Congress' attention—and effectively pausing the majority of other business— progress on the 2026 surface transportation reauthorization is expected to slow. The shutdown may delay both House and Senate movement on reauthorization bills. However, leadership of the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee, which has jurisdiction over the highway title, has stated they still intend to proceed with a markup on their proposal before the end of the year.

We continue to closely monitor developments and remain engaged in discussions regarding advancement of the surface transportation reauthorization bill.



# NOTABLE OCTOBER HEARINGS & MARKUPS

## OCTOBER 21, SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE *Executive Session*

- The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (CST) approved the Cruz-Cantwell ROTOR Act ([S. 2503](#)), which seeks to address some of the aviation safety flaws exposed by January's mass-fatality regional jet and helicopter crash near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.
- The Committee also approved the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025 ([S. 2975](#)) via voice vote. This bill is a bipartisan effort to reauthorize the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's safety programs until 2030.
- Furthermore, the Commerce Committee voted 16-12 to advance Seval Oz's nomination to head research and technology at the Transportation Department. Oz's nomination comes as the Department of Transportation (DOT) is moving to get more self-driving cars, namely robotaxis, on U.S. roads. She has extensive experience working in autonomous vehicles and previously headed global partnerships and business development for Google's self-driving program.



*Politico, 10/21/25*

### OTHER HEARINGS

October 22 - Senate CST Committee Nominations Hearing

- *Mr. Stephen Carmel, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration*
- *Ms. Laura DiBella, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner*
- *Mr. Robert Harvey, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner*
- *Mr. Timothy Petty, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (NOAA)*

October 8 - Senate CST Hearing

- *'Shut Your App: How Uncle Sam Jawboned Big Tech Into Silencing Americans'*

▶ The House held 0 hearings this month.

# ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

## SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

Federal employees are bearing the bulk of the shutdown pain - from air traffic controllers to agency staff across departments. Military servicemembers continue to receive pay, as President Trump authorized both the Pentagon and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to utilize any remaining funds from the current fiscal year to bankroll paychecks for active-duty servicemembers.

Beyond standard furloughs, the Trump Administration has also leveraged the shutdown to implement “Reductions in Force” (RIFs), resulting in more than 4,000 layoffs to date. OMB Director Russ Vought said on October 15 that layoffs could reach “north of 10,000” if the shutdown persists.

That same day, U.S. District Judge Susan Illston issued an order directing the federal government to cease shutdown-related layoffs for workers represented by unions. Nonetheless, President Trump has indicated that additional layoffs may still occur.

To date, DOT has largely been spared from RIFs. According to a court filing by the Trump Administration, agencies not currently conducting RIFs, like DOT, have not “made a final decision” on whether to “issue RIF notices during or because” of the shutdown.

During this time, DOT has furloughed over 12,000 employees, approximately 93% of whom serve within the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), while hundreds are from other subsets of DOT.

Department of Transportation												
FY 2026 Shutdown Plan Summary Overview												
	FAA	FHWA	FMCSA	NHTSA	FTA	FRA	PHMSA	MARAD	GLS	OIG	OST	Total
<b>Estimated Time (to nearest half day) Required to Complete Shutdown Activities:</b>	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	-
<b>Employees at Work:</b>	<b>33,507</b>	<b>2,268</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>1,564</b>	<b>41,504</b>
Compensation is financed by a resource other than annual appropriations:	4,726	2,268	1,084	574	517	218	322	590	118	-	1,563	11,980
Necessary to perform activities expressly authorized by law:	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Necessary to perform activities necessarily implied by law:	3,112	-	-	-	-	16	3	7	-	7	1	3,146
Necessary to the discharge of the President’s constitutional duties and powers:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Necessary to protect life and property:	25,668	-	-	-	-	550	63	1	-	94	-	26,376
<b>Furloughed Employees:</b>	<b>11,322</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>12,213</b>
<b>Total Agency Employees On Board Before Implementation of the Plan:</b>	<b>44,829</b>	<b>2,268</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>1,023</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>1,595</b>	<b>53,717</b>

# ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

## SHUTDOWN IMPACT: AVIATION SAFETY

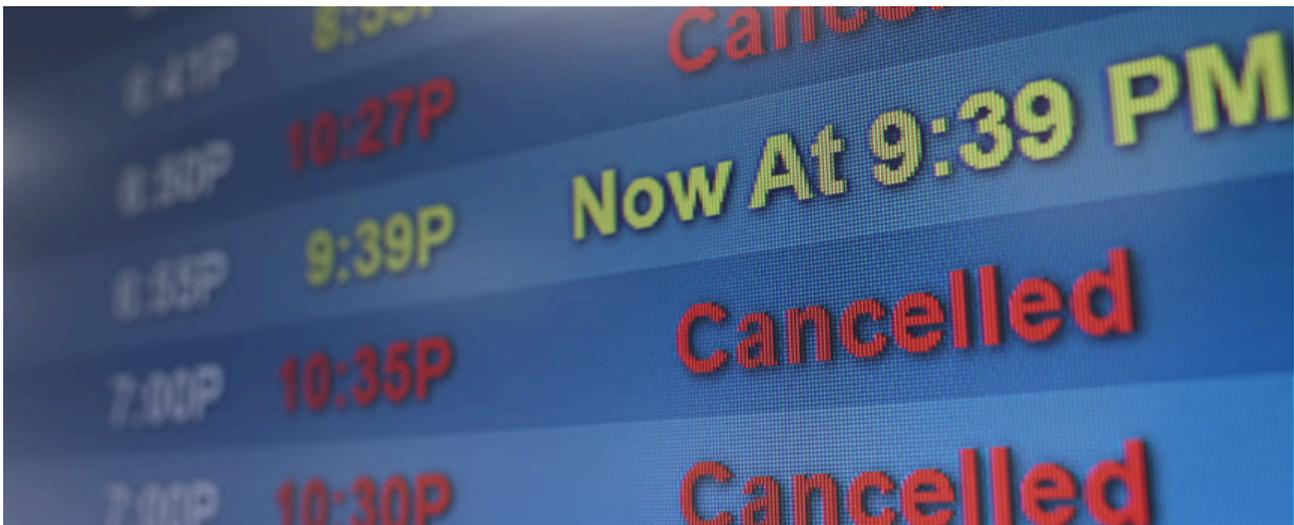
Roughly 60,000 FAA employees have gone without pay throughout the shutdown. Absent a funding agreement soon, many will be forced to rely on personal savings, rack up credit card debt, or take on secondary jobs to make ends meet.

According to an FAA operational planning document released on October 9, the agency reported staffing shortages for air traffic controllers affecting 11 airspace facilities nationwide. On October 23, Secretary Duffy warned of possible flight delays and cancellations due to constrained staffing and operational disruptions as the government shutdown continues.

While Secretary Duffy has alluded to potential personnel actions targeting underperforming air traffic controllers amid continuing delays, the Trump Administration seems committed to finding ways to continue paying air traffic controllers while the government remains shut down.

However, covering air traffic controller salaries presents a significant challenge, as the government would need to find more than \$500 million per month to sustain payroll.

Persistent staffing shortages across the country may increase pressure on lawmakers to reach a funding agreement, especially in light of the aviation safety implications.



*NBC, 10/7/25*

# ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

## SHUTDOWN IMPACT ON AGENCY OPERATIONS

Spending by DOT returned to the \$1 billion per day mark after a standard beginning-of-year accounting hold. This spending – primarily reimbursements for grant work already completed by grant recipients – takes place despite the rest of the government being, technically, shut down.

According to DOT, during the government shutdown, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) operations will continue because its personnel are financed by the Highway Trust Fund and advance appropriations provided by the IIJA. As a result, none of FTA's 517 employees are furloughed.

While staffing remains unaffected, the impact on FTA activities is less clear. FTA has sufficient liquidating cash to support several months of reimbursements for previously approved projects. In addition, activities funded by IIJA advance appropriations will continue during a lapse in annual appropriations. However, it is unlikely that FTA will be able to approve new grants during the shutdown.

To the extent that FTA activities involve other agencies, the personnel of those agencies (e.g., Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Department of the Interior) may be furloughed, which could stop progress on projects.

Most highway and trucking programs will operate without interruption because they similarly receive funding from the Highway Trust Fund and the IIJA rather than annual appropriations.

On the FRA side, 23% of its staff were furloughed as a result of the shutdown. The FRA will cease funding research and development projects and rulemaking activities, unless regulatory activity is related to financial assistance programs that are funded through the FRA's Oversight account.

The FRA's Office of Railroad Safety will continue working through the shutdown. Staffers who work in the FRA's Office of Railroad Development and administer various financial assistance programs will also remain on the job. Funding for that work is not affected by a lapse in appropriations.

Lastly, the Surface Transportation Board (STB) has suspended operations. During the shutdown, STB will not accept filings, process cases, issue decisions, or hold hearings. The only exception, the board said, would be to handle requests for emergency service orders, which are rare.



*TT News, 9/30/25*

# ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

## NOMINATIONS UPDATES

- By a 50-47 party-line en bloc vote in the Senate, David Armstrong Fink was confirmed on October 7 as the nation's 16th FRA Administrator.
  - Fink, a fifth-generation railroader and son of the late David Andrew Fink, is the former President of regional Pan Am Railways (now part of [CSX](#)). Pan Am Railways came under fire from the FRA [for allegedly not addressing safety problems](#) connected to worker safety.
- The Senate also confirmed Derek Barrs as Administrator of Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), Michael Rutherford assistant secretary for the Office of Multimodal Freight Infrastructure and Policy, and Gregory Zerzan as general counsel at DOT via a 51 to 47 “en bloc” vote.

# TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

## UNION PACIFIC & NORFOLK SOUTHERN MERGER

- Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern have set November 14 for shareholder votes on their \$85 billion merger, which would create the first U.S. railroad that runs coast-to-coast.
- Once the deal is approved by shareholders, the companies can complete their application to the STB, which has currently suspended operations given the shutdown.
- President Trump signaled support for this deal in September, stating it “sounds good to me” after a meeting with UP CEO Jim Vena.
- BNSF Railway has publicly rebuked the merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern, calling on customers to air any grievances to the STB.
- STB [public comments](#) closed on October 16.



# CONTACT US

TAI, GINSBERG & ASSOCIATES



202-536-6632

**SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION**  
Special Meeting of November 7, 2025

STAFF REPORT

**Item 5**

**ACTION**

**Adopt a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Valley Construction Services Inc. for Robert J. Cabral Station Upgrades for an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$1,381,077 and Authorizing the Interim Executive Director, or Designee, to Negotiate, Award, and Execute Any and All Agreements and Documents Related to the Project including Approving Any and All Amendments thereto within Their Spending Authority**

Background:

The Cabral Station Upgrades Project (Project) aims to refresh the painting and flooring initially completed during the 2003 renovation. The work is divided into two primary scopes, each addressing specific needs to enhance the appearance of the Cabral Station.

The first scope of the Project encompasses the interior repainting of approximately 11,297 square feet of non-public areas, including the restrooms, training room, boardroom, hallways, kitchens, office spaces, and stairwells. The first scope also includes repainting approximately 2,224 square feet of the main lobby public areas, such as the ceiling, walls, columns, and restrooms.

The second scope of the Project involves removing existing carpet and vinyl flooring, followed by the installation of new carpet tiles and vinyl/laminate planks across approximately 11,297 square feet in the training room, boardroom, hallways, and offices.

The scope(s) of work includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Surface preparation
- Materials and products (painting and flooring)
- Scheduling
- Furniture handling
- One-year warranty
- Painting: Includes walls, door jambs, and trim
- Flooring installation: Includes carpet tiles and vinyl/laminate flooring
- Optional Services (priced separately): Gold leafing, window trim

Procurement Approach:

On July 3, 2025, the Rail Commission released a Request for Proposals (RFP) via vendor portal PlanetBids. In addition to PlanetBids, a Notice Inviting Proposals was shared with surrounding Chambers of Commerce, certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms, and posted on TransitTalent.com and The Stockton Record, which directed interested proposers to PlanetBids. Twenty-eight (28) firms showed interest by registering on PlanetBids and either viewing or downloading the RFP documents.

On the due date of August 28, 2025, six (6) proposals were received from the following firms:

- Anaba Construction Inc. – Manteca, CA
- Color New Corporation – Woodland Hills, CA

- Perfection Painting Corporation– Santa Clarita, CA
- Pridex Construction Group Inc. – San Jose, CA
- Valley Construction Services Inc. – Stockton, CA
- Vivid-Accent Painting Company – Watsonville, CA

The Procurement and Contracts Department reviewed the proposals for completeness and responsiveness, deeming three (3) of the six (6) proposals received as responsive in meeting the RFP requirements. The responsive proposals and proposed samples were evaluated by a panel consisting of Rail Commission staff.

Following the initial evaluation of the written proposals, all three (3) responsive firms were invited for interviews and presentations:

- Color New Corporation
- Valley Construction Services Inc.
- Vivid-Accent Painting Company

The firms were evaluated on their presentations, responses to the evaluation panel’s questions, and proposed samples. After combining the scores from the written proposals and interviews, staff deemed Valley Construction Services Inc. as the most responsive and responsible proposer.

The Rail Commission project manager reviewed the price, determining the overall price to be fair, reasonable, and in line with the scope.

The agreement will be effective upon execution by both parties with a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,381,077. The base contract is for one (1) year with no option to renew.

The Notice of Intent to Award was published on October 22, 2025. Pursuant to the approved and adopted protest procedure, the protest period will close on November 6, 2025, at 2:00 P.M. PDT. As of the date of this staff report, no protests were received.

Fiscal Impact:

<b>Project</b>	Robert J. Cabral Building Improvements
<b>Minor Capital Project Budget Line Item</b>	Robert J. Cabral Building Improvements
<b>Funding Sources for this Project</b>	Measure K
<b>Budget for this Project</b>	\$2,000,000
<b>Encumbrances for this Project</b>	\$0.00
<b>Budget Remaining for This Project</b>	\$2,000,000
<b>Contract Amount</b>	\$1,381,077
<b>Budget Remaining For this Project</b>	\$618,923

Recommendation:

Adopt a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Valley Construction Services Inc. for Robert J. Cabral Station Upgrades for an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$1,381,077 and Authorizing the Interim Executive Director, or Designee, to Negotiate, Award, and Execute Any and All Agreements and Documents Related to the Project including Approving Any and All Amendments thereto within Their Spending Authority.

## SJRRC RESOLUTION 25/26 -

### **RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH VALLEY CONSTRUCTION SERVICES INC. FOR ROBERT J. CABRAL STATION UPGRADES FOR AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$1,381,077 AND AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OR DESIGNEE, TO NEGOTIATE, AWARD, AND EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE PROJECT INCLUDING APPROVING ANY AND ALL AMENDMENTS THERETO WITHIN THEIR SPENDING AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, the Cabral Station Upgrades Project (Project) aims to refresh the painting and flooring initially completed during the 2003 renovation; and

WHEREAS, the first scope of the Project encompasses the interior repainting of approximately 11,297 square feet of non-public areas, including the restrooms, training room, boardroom, hallways, kitchens, office spaces, and stairwells; and

WHEREAS, the first scope also includes repainting approximately 2,224 square feet of the main lobby public areas, such as the ceiling, walls, columns, and restrooms; and

WHEREAS, the second scope of the Project involves removing existing carpet and vinyl flooring, followed by the installation of new carpet tiles and vinyl/laminate planks across approximately 11,297 square feet in the training room, boardroom, hallways, and offices; and

WHEREAS, the scope(s) of work includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Surface preparation; and
- Materials and products (painting and flooring); and
- Scheduling; and
- Furniture handling; and
- One-year warranty; and
- Painting: Includes walls, door jambs, and trim; and
- Flooring installation: Includes carpet tiles and vinyl/laminate flooring; and
- Optional Services (priced separately): Gold leafing, window trim; and

WHEREAS, after combining the scores from the written proposals and interviews, staff deemed Valley Construction Services Inc. as the most responsive and responsible proposer; and

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission project manager reviewed the price, determining the overall price to be fair, reasonable, and in line with the scope.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission hereby Approves an Agreement with Valley Construction Services Inc. for Robert J. Cabral Station Upgrades for an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$1,381,077 and Authorizing the Interim Executive Director, or Designee, to Negotiate, Award, and Execute Any and All Agreements and Documents Related to the Project including Approving Any and All Amendments thereto within Their Spending Authority.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

ATTEST:

SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL  
RAIL COMMISSION

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DAVID LIPARI, Interim Secretary

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LISA CRAIG-HENSLEY, Chair

# SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION

Special Meeting of November 7, 2025

## STAFF REPORT

### Item 6

### ACTION

**Adopt a Resolution Approving Amendment 03 to the Agreement with Ghirardelli Associates, Inc. for Professional Services for the Capital Projects Program Increasing the Compensation Amount by \$2,593,000 for a New Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$4,931,667 and Authorizing the Interim Executive Director, or Designee, to Execute Any and All Documents Related to the Project including Approving any and all Amendments thereto within their Spending Authority**

#### Background:

In September 2024 the Board approved an agreement with Ghirardelli Associates, Inc. (Ghirardelli) to provide dedicated engineers to augment the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (Rail Commission) staff in the delivery of the major capital program and expansion work effort. The engineering staff reports to the Director of Capital Programs and are responsible for supporting Capital Programs by managing delivery, scope, schedule, risk and by providing technical expertise related to engineering and construction requirements.

Amendment 01 was executed on July 1, 2025, at zero cost to extend the term of the agreement to September 30, 2025, and reallocate staff resources.

Amendment 02 was executed on October 3, 2025, in the amount of \$239,905 to extend the term of the agreement to November 30, 2025, and added Key Personnel to support project controls and risk management.

This Amendment 03 will provide sufficient time to issue a Request for Proposals and procure a new competitively bid contract for program and project management, risk management, scheduling, and other professional support services for the Rail Commission's Capital Program.

The scope of services for Amendment 03 will include:

#### Project Management services:

- Produce key Capital Program management documents, processes, and reports, including those specified under local, state, and federal statutes.
- Coordinate activities to support the Program baseline and overall Capital Program management.
- Focus on the portfolio organization, aligning with the agency's goals, prioritizing and budgeting strategic projects in the Capital Program.
- Managing risks and interdependencies between projects and ensuring resource capacity and availability.
- Management of the integrated schedule.
- Assist in developing necessary RFQs, RFPs, and contracts for any additional consulting services that may be needed for the Capital Program.
- Individual project management will continue to focus on scope, resources, and budget management.

### Program Controls services:

- Maintain the baseline and use it as a tool to manage the successful delivery of the Capital Program projects.
- Review project information to be included in the baseline to confirm that controls information is comprehensive, consistent, complete, timely, and vetted by project leadership.
- Report project performance against the baseline and administer the change process.
- Ensure that approved changes are properly reflected in the baseline.
- Programming work previously completed in terms of budget and schedule.
- Prepare regular comprehensive status reports and updates to keep SJRRC fully informed throughout.

In evaluating the status of assembling the full Program Delivery Team, re-baselining of the numerous projects underway and the anticipated transition of projects from design to construction, staff are recommending an amendment to the agreement with Ghirardelli continue services through May 31, 2026. A Request for Proposals is being developed to solicit a new agreement for these support services through a competitive process with the estimated award of April 2026.

### Procurement Approach:

The amendment was handled in accordance with the Rail Commission's Procurement Manual. Procurement and Contracts Staff reviewed and confirmed the price of the amendment to be fair and reasonable.

This third amendment to the agreement with Ghirardelli will increase the current contract amount of \$2,338,667 by \$2,593,000, resulting in a new Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$4,931,667. The effective date will be December 1, 2025, with an expiration date of May 31, 2026.

### Fiscal Impact:

Expenses and Revenues for the contract and proposed amendment are identified in the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Capital Budget and the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Operating Budget under the Rail Commission/ACE/Authority Professional Services line

### Recommendation:

Adopt a Resolution Approving Amendment 03 to the Agreement with Ghirardelli Associates, Inc. for Professional Services for the Capital Projects Program Increasing the Compensation Amount by \$2,593,000 for a New Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$4,931,667 and Authorizing the Interim Executive Director to Execute Any and All Documents Related to the Project including Approving any and all Amendments thereto within their Spending Authority.

## SJRRC RESOLUTION 25/26 –

### **RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENT 03 TO THE AGREEMENT WITH GHIRARDELLI ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAM INCREASING THE COMPENSATION AMOUNT BY \$2,593,000 FOR A NEW NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$4,931,667 AND AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OR DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE PROJECT INCLUDING APPROVING ANY AND ALL AMENDMENTS THERETO WITHIN THEIR SPENDING AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, in September 2024, the Board approved an agreement with Ghirardelli Associates, Inc. (Ghirardelli) to provide dedicated engineers to augment the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (Rail Commission) staff in the delivery of the major capital program and expansion work effort; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 01 was executed on July 01, 2025, at zero cost to extend the term of the agreement to September 30, 2025, and reallocate staff resources; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 02 was executed on October 3, 2025, in the amount of \$239,905 to extend the term of the agreement to November 30, 2025, and added Key Personnel to support project controls and risk management; and

WHEREAS, this Amendment 03 will provide sufficient time to issue a Request for Proposals and procure a new competitively bid contract for program and project management, risk management, scheduling, and other professional support services for the Rail Commission's Capital Program; and

WHEREAS, the scope of services for Amendment 03 will include:

- The following Project Management services:
  - Produce key Capital Program management documents, processes, and reports, including those specified under local, state, and federal statutes.
  - Coordinate activities to support the Program baseline and overall Capital Program management.
  - Focus on the portfolio organization, aligning with the agency's goals, prioritizing, and budgeting strategic projects in the Capital Program.
  - Managing risks and interdependencies between projects and ensuring resource capacity and availability.
  - Management of the integrated schedule.
  - Assist in developing necessary RFQs, RFPs, and contracts for any additional consulting services that may be needed for the Capital Program.
  - Individual project management will continue to focus on scope, resources, and budget management; and;
- The following Program Controls services:
  - Maintain the baseline and use it as a tool to manage the successful delivery of the Capital Program projects.
  - Review project information to be included in the baseline to confirm that controls information is comprehensive, consistent, complete, timely, and vetted by project leadership.
  - Report project performance against the baseline and administer the change process.

- Ensure that approved changes are properly reflected in the baseline.
- Programming work previously completed in terms of budget and schedule.
- Prepare regular comprehensive status reports and updates to keep SJRRC fully informed throughout; and;

WHEREAS, Procurement and Contracts Staff reviewed and confirmed the price of the amendment to be fair and reasonable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission hereby approves Amendment 03 to the Agreement with Ghirardelli Associates, Inc. for Professional Services for the Capital Projects Program Increasing the Compensation Amount by \$2,593,000 for a New Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$4,931,667 and Authorizing the Interim Executive Director, or Designee, to Execute Any and All Documents Related to the Project including Approving any and all Amendments thereto within their Spending Authority.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL  
COMMISSION

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David Lipari, Interim Secretary

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LISA CRAIG-HENSLEY, Chair

**SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION**  
Special Meeting of November 7, 2025

STAFF REPORT

Item 7

INFORMATION

**ACE Quarterly Performance Update (July 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025)**

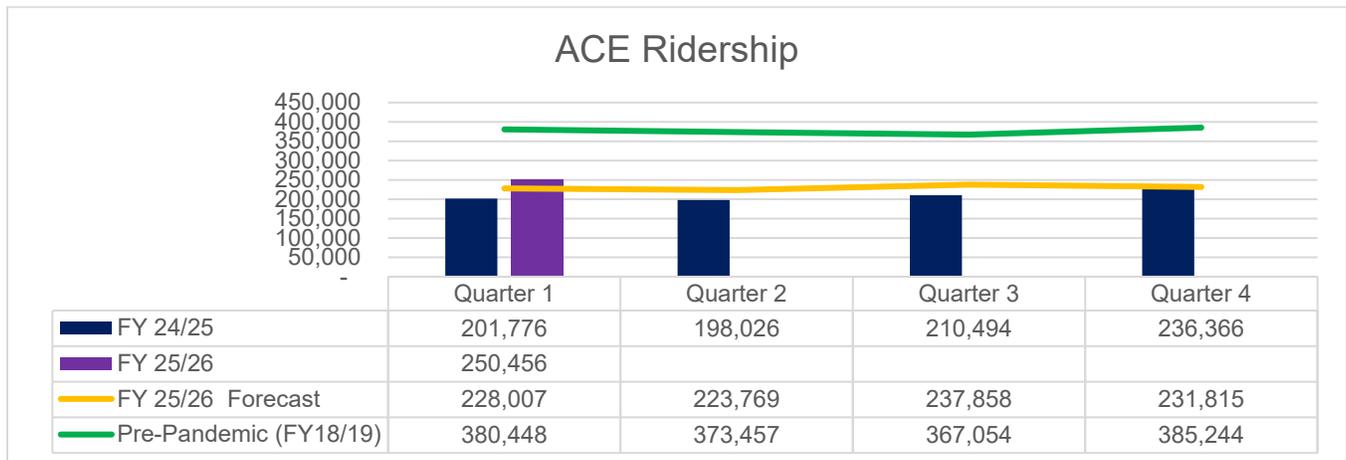
Background:

With ridership, revenue, and on-time performance being key indicators of the service’s performance, ACE is exceeding expectations and goals regularly. Combined operational coordination with the host railroad and other services will continue to solidify reliability. Marketing and outreach strategies continue to expand with the engagement of employers, establishment of partnerships, and elevating the ACE brand at community events.

**Ridership and Revenue**

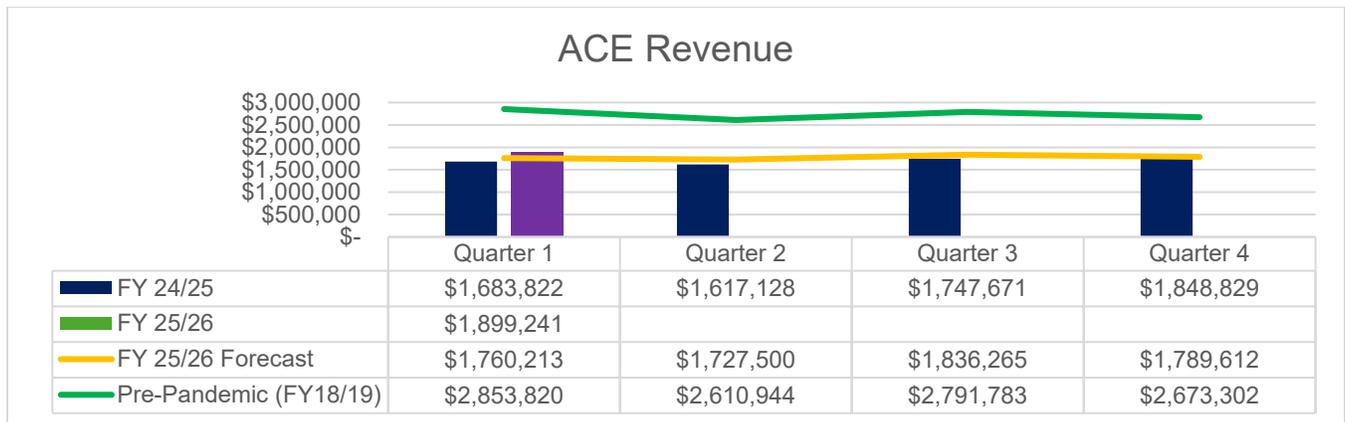
FY25/26 Q1 marked another period of strong performance for ACE, with ridership reaching 250,456 (+24% YOY). This quarter also surpassed the forecasted ridership by nearly 10%, demonstrating that rider demand continues to exceed expectations. As compared to pre-pandemic levels, FY25/26 Q1 represents 66% of riders carried during the same period in FY18/19.

**Figure 1**



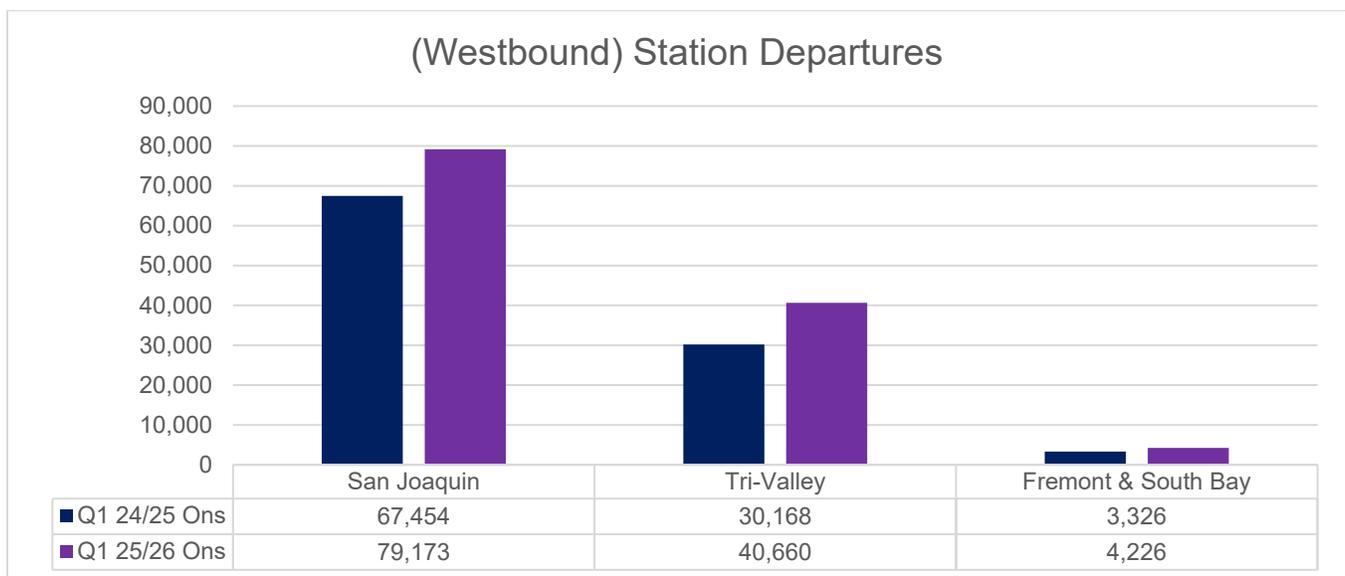
Fare revenue for FY25/26 Q1 totaled \$1.9 million (+13% YOY) and exceeded the forecast by approximately 8%. Following closely with ridership performance, revenue is at 67% of pre-pandemic levels.

**Figure 2**

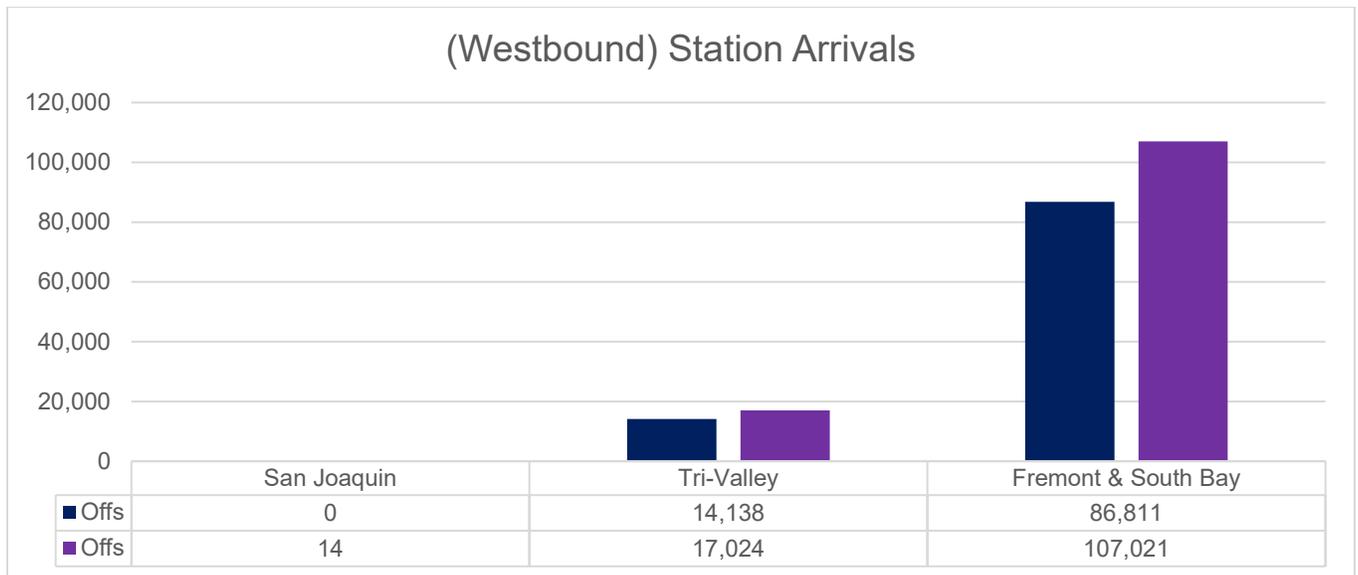


In addition to tracking overall ridership performance, Staff follows individual market boardings and alightings to gain insight into which areas along the route are growing, and which ones might be struggling. The markets are segmented into the San Joaquin, Tri-Valley, and Fremont and South Bay markets. Movement from the San Joaquin and Tri-Valley to the southern end of the route continues to climb at a similar pace, which means mid-route performance still has room for growth, and means continued focus on building ridership between San Joaquin and the Tri-Valley markets.

**Figure 3**



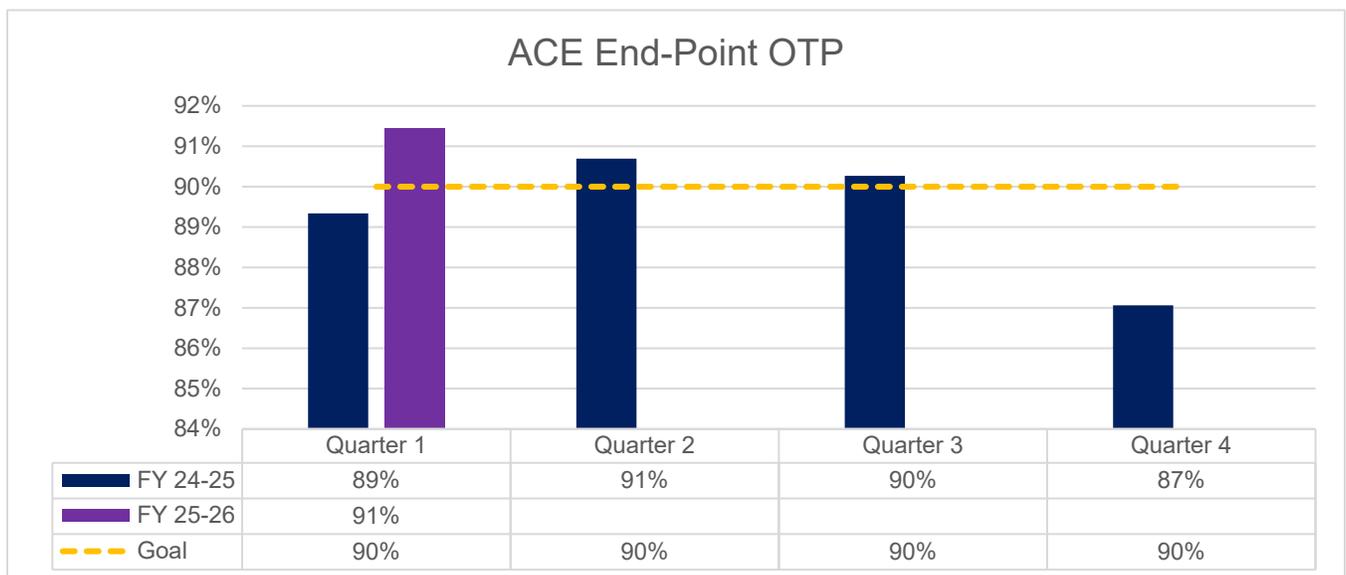
**Figure 4**



**On-Time Performance (OTP)**

For FY25/26 Q1, OTP started at 89% in July, climbed to 93% in August, and settled at 92% in September, averaging out at 91.3% and surpassing the goal of 90%. Despite a slight dip in July, overall, this quarter reflects solid performance for the service. Compared to the previous year's FY24/25 Q1, ACE has seen an encouraging year-over-year improvement of about 1.6%.

**Figure 5**



### **OTP Contributing Factors**

A primary factor affecting morning (westbound) OTP has been congestion caused by morning freight train operations. To address this, Staff is collaborating with host railroad Union Pacific to explore strategies for enhancing westbound train performance. Conversely, evening (eastbound) trains have experienced notable improvements in recent months, attributed to host railroad dispatchers adapting effectively to the updated Capitol Corridor schedule. Additionally, the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority has scheduled a timetable adjustment coming in the near term and it is anticipated that the new schedule will help alleviate congestion and improve OTP for morning trains.

### Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact at this time.

### Recommendation:

This is an information item only.