Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Implementation
Intercity Passenger Rail Sub Working Group Meeting #2
February 15, 2022
11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Opening remarks:
1. Welcome and Review of Agenda
2. Housekeeping Items and Action Items Review
3. Draft Intercity Rail Sub-Working Group Charter
4. Statewide Intercity Rail Project List
5. Recap and Action Items

Updates from Sub-Working Group:
• Kick off on Jan 28th for Transit and Commuter Rail SWG
• Next few meetings we will focus on statewide project list
• We’re looking to advance strong projects that meet statewide and regional goals that are also competitive for federal grants
• Tackle ZEV implementation challenges
• The IIJA transition roll out plan
• Some concerns around and the lack of operating and maintenance funding
• Dedicated meeting to discuss Covid related issues- ridership/ bus driver shortage
• NEPA delegation- solution
• NTD reporting

Upcoming IIJA:
• Next meeting w/ CalSTA and other sub-working groups tomorrow 2/16 @ 11 am
• Freight/Goods Movement sun-working group meeting on 2/17 @ 1 pm
• Next meeting for Transit and Commuter Rail on 2/23 @ 1 pm (2nd meeting)
• Webinar- IIJA link in chat sponsored by legal group

Corridor ID and Development Plan:
• Deadline 3/9/22
• CA passenger SPRC- taking lead to submit response on issue areas
• Caltrans is taking lead on drafting this response with CCJPA, SJJPA and LOSSAN Agency
• RFI- Corridor Identification -16 different questions- roles and responsibilities, service dev., project pipeline, criteria, selectivity.

Robert Padgette:
• we will meet this week to discuss strategy on other state’s response in D.C. meeting for this initiative
• FRA program used to prioritize intercity rail in the state partnership
• Has Caltrans started drafting this response? – JPAs are meeting this afternoon- set up time and meet with JPAs by Friday this week- at least set up an initial conversation.

Action Item Tracker:
• Fill in as necessary for your respective projects

Roster Info:
• Reach out to Charles.Roberts@dot.ca.gov

Project Charter V2:
• Overview
• Updated charter goals 7-13
• Brainstorm ideas to leverage federal, state, and local funding
• Discuss mega projects and agree on definition

Idea*- to add to goals
• Resiliency, climate change, state of good repair and protecting infrastructure especially in mega projects

Key Milestones and due dates:
• Overview
• Next meeting- finalize template, charter, and action plan
• 3rd meeting- discuss lack of operating and maintenance funds discussion
• Address moral shift- increase attractiveness of services
• Build statewide project list- for rail programs
• Determine whether new state implementing legislation is necessary

Chad Edison:
• NOFO Roll outs will be on a monthly cadence- and soon we will start seeing them
• We need to be getting to a consensus on where we have most competitive projects each year
• State funding/ supplemental funding will help- it’s important we are ready
• We need to be ready for NOFOs early May and more as summer goes on

Robert Padgette:
• It would be helpful for state to set up funds for prioritization
• Safety risk- for Grade Separation Projects
• Love to see the state organize and get on the same page to get projects selected
• Old section 130 program – 100% federal funding and other programs require 20% match
- All these different pieces that we need to weave together so we can have a chance at these federal grants
- Clarity about staff resources to organize efforts
- We need to endorse the resources that will be used so there is support for Caltrans

Chad Edison:
- Our contingent award language could help improve securing state funding and position ourselves to leverage federal funding for various programs.

Momo T:
- Heavy lift would be done here at Caltrans
- Charter is a living document as we look at legislation and tackle ongoing challenges - we will continue to update

Assumptions:
- Intercity Rail sub-working group will meet once a month for 60 minutes. Some meeting may need to extend to 90 minutes depending on topics. There was no questions

Coordination:
- Equity - we will talk about it here and share with Caltrans CORE
- FGM - we need to look at freight action plan - to align - work with Yatman K.
- Transit and Commuter Rail - updates will be shared during the house keeping items of each meeting
- ZEV - we will hold specific topic meeting at #4 in April – invite T. Dang will be invited
- Safety - Grade crossing projects in our list we will need to be coordinated with Safety SWG as well

Risks and Implementation and Mitigation Strategy:
- Agencies competing for funds
- Purchase of ROW
- Lack of funds
- Lack of state/local match

Michael Cano
- Add a risk associated with Host RR coordination

Momo T:
- FTA small agency - long time to process NEPA documents
- Will tap SMEs to tackle issues and concerns/risks/ strategy

Chad Edison.
- Add a risk regarding environmental considerations
- Are these projects supported with the environmental documents that are necessary for this purpose?
• NEPA delegation/ the ability to get NEPA done across projects need to be added as a risk
• FRA could have similar issues- ensuring projects get through NEPA timely

Robert Padgette:
• Any risks associated with cost escalation?
• When we pour funding to an area that hasn’t had it for a while, it is hard to do good cost estimates because of supply chain issues, etc.

Carrie Schindler.
• We are having to comply with FTA 54.
• Although we are FRA regulated
• We need add a risk associated with conflicting/Overlapping efforts compliance issues by two federal agencies- risk
• This should also be brought up in SWG commuter rail

**Statewide Project List:**
• NOFO
• Mega Projects
• Letter of Support from Caltrans
• We want to keep list consolidated and ensure these projects have consistent descriptions that are being circulated to other agencies/ stakeholders
• Overview of “Combined Master Rail Project” list
• We would like to use this list to start collecting information- template that you have seen before
• NOFO- extend project information to us via spreadsheet
• We will ensure the projects are aligned with state rail plan
• We need to add column to note RTIP or FTIP?

Jay Fuhrman:
• Will the list you just showed us be available through SharePoint?
• Andy and Chad will be in charge of this
• We need to make sure spreadsheet is accurate before we share- maybe a google form that we can distribute
• Share fields and get information
• Andy- working on intake form now

Danny Veeh:
• LoSSAN groups- will send over info that will help track project list

Kenneth Kao:
• Regional transportation plan consistency- most projects should already be in RTP but there are some projects in overall rail plan that are not regional
• Intercity rail funds not covered by MPO process
• We need to ensure we are coordinating on these projects

Momo T:
• Mega projects- if you have any projects, please come forward with ideas for approach since it’s a large funding requirement
• Is there a capital funding threshold around mega project?
  o Definition- no but a lot had to do with size and the amount of cooperation
• Chad to do more research on Mega Projects definitions and propositions

Recap and Action Items:
• Finalize draft charter by next SWG meeting- doodle poll coming soon
• Complete doodle poll
• Start thinking about the ideas/recommendations to address modal shift and lack of adequate funding.