

**LODI CITY COUNCIL  
SHIRTSLEEVE SESSION  
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2010**

A. Roll Call by City Clerk

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, February 9, 2010, commencing at 7:01 a.m.

Present: Council Member Hansen, Council Member Johnson, Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, and Mayor Katzakian

Absent: Council Member Mounce

Also Present: City Manager King, City Attorney Schwabauer, and City Clerk Johl

B. Topic(s)

B-1 Presentation on the California High-Speed and Regional Rail Program (CD)

City Manager King briefly introduced the subject matter of the Statewide High Speed Train System.

Interim Community Development Director Rad Bartlam introduced Brian Schmidt of the Rail Authority to provide the presentation. Mr. Schmidt provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Statewide High Speed Train System. Specific topics of discussion included connecting cities throughout California, Merced to Sacramento Section, purpose of high speed train project, current and projected need, what are high speed trains, grade separations, typical sections along alignment, California Environmental Quality Act/National Environmental Policy Act process, potential environmental issues, potential Sacramento high speed train (HST) station location, potential Stockton HST station location, potential Modesto station locations, potential Merced HST station location, HST project process, alternatives analysis process, California high speed train prior milestones, public participation, and the Central Valley working group.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Schmidt stated there is no difference other than terminology between regional rail and commuter rail.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Schmidt stated there is no documentation to indicate who stated approximately seven to eight years ago that Lodi does not want commuter rail coming through the City.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Schmidt stated a letter from the City Council indicating that they are interested in high speed rail and regional rail stops in the City is good.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Schmidt stated both high speed and regional rail would run parallel and the support is needed for both simultaneously.

In response to Mayor Katzakian, Mr. Schmidt stated high speed rail would require new tracks that may run parallel to existing tracks to the extent possible with separate right of ways.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Mr. King stated a new track would require a right of way acquisition of land possibly parallel to Highway 99. Mr. Schmidt stated it would most likely run east of the Union Pacific track but engineers have not yet looked at specific design and cost alternatives.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Mr. Bartlam stated the high speed segment will not stop in Lodi, the closest stop is Stockton, and the question of opportunity is to use the alignment for regional rail purposes.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Mr. Schmidt stated some of the impacts of high speed rail going through town would be elevated structure, 50 foot wide right of way, two to four tracks, and noise should be nominal compared to freight trains. Mr. Schmidt also discussed the anticipated frequency of round-trip trips.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Schmidt stated the modeling process is being reviewed and options for sharing tracks and mixing services are being considered.

In response to Mayor Katakian, Mr. Schmidt stated the typical passenger ridership in Europe for high speed rail is 1,000 people per set.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Schmidt stated regardless of the ballot measure, due to federal funding, high speed rail efforts will move forward although it may not be built for some time. Mr. King stated it is his understanding that the main purpose of high speed rail in California is to connect the Los Angeles area with the Bay Area.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Schmidt stated true high speed would occur around the Bakersfield area where there is room to go over 200 miles per hour.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Schmidt stated the projected commute from Los Angeles to San Francisco is two hours and twenty minutes including station stops.

General discussion ensued among the City Council, Mr. King, and Mr. Schmidt regarding the European rail system and how it would compare to the proposed high speed and commuter rail system in California.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Schmidt stated the bond that passed over a year ago for high speed rail in California was approximately \$9.95 billion and was designed to be a matching funding source for scoping, design, and some construction.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Mr. King stated the item will be placed for Council consideration on the February 17 agenda in order to ensure a timely response for the February 26 scoping period deadline.

In response to City Manager King, Mr. Schmidt stated he does not believe any American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funding was received for the Merced to Sacramento rail option, as the funding that was received was primarily for Los Angeles to San Francisco.

In response to Mayor Katakian, Mr. Schmidt stated other areas competing for high speed rail funds include Chicago, the Midwest, Florida, Massachusetts, Virginia, and Seattle, although California received more than any other state.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Schmidt confirmed that the worst case scenario is that if Lodi does not accept high speed rail, it may not get regional rail either.

Myrna Wetzel spoke in support of utilizing the multi-modal station in light of the cost and effort that went into its construction.

C. Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items - None.

D. Adjournment

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 a.m.

ATTEST:

Randi Johl  
City Clerk