



**ITEM ID:** 2025-341-0

**TRANSMITTAL DATE:** December 5, 2025

**MEETING DATE:** December 12, 2025

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Justin Fornelli, Chief, Program Delivery

**SUBJECT:** Construction and Maintenance Agreement with DesertXpress Enterprises, LLC for the Brightline West Project

### **Issue**

Approval is required to execute the Construction and Maintenance Agreement between DesertXpress Enterprises, LLC, d/b/a Brightline West (BLW) and the Authority for the construction of the Brightline West Project.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute the Construction and Maintenance Agreement between DesertXpress Enterprises, LLC and the Authority that will provide \$3,058,331.10 of DesertXpress funding for Authority support services for the construction of the Brightline West Project.

### **Strategic Commitment**

This report aligns with the Strategic Business Plan commitments of:

- **Connecting and Leveraging Partnerships:** We will forge new and enhanced relationships with our public and private partners to integrate and coordinate connecting services, providing residents throughout Southern California with better, seamless, sustainable alternatives to driving. The Authority's support to the Brightline West project will enable a seamless experience for Brightline West and Metrolink passengers, connecting high-speed rail infrastructure with existing transit systems and thereby enhancing regional mobility and multimodal connectivity. It positions the Authority as a proactive partner in advancing innovating transportation solutions that reduce congestion, improve air quality, and promote economic development.

- **Advancing Key Regional Goals:** We will grow the role of regional rail in addressing climate change, air quality, and other pressing sustainability and economic issues by advancing toward zero emissions, making rail a compelling alternative to single-occupant automobiles and advancing equity-focused opportunities for all communities throughout Southern California. The Brightline West Project will provide a sustainable and zero-emission transportation alternative in the Southern California – Las Vegas corridor. By connecting with Metrolink, it will boost ridership by making passenger rail an attractive alternative to existing travel options.

## **Background**

Brightline West (BLW) proposes to design, construct, operate, and maintain a private interstate high-speed electrified passenger railroad between Southern California and Las Vegas, Nevada. The southern terminal of the BLW line will be a new station constructed adjacent to the Metrolink commuter rail station in Rancho Cucamonga. Departing the new station, the BLW tracks will run east on an elevated viaduct within the Authority's San Bernardino Line right-of-way for approximately 1.4 miles until they reach Interstate 15, where they will turn north and cross above the width of the San Bernardino Line at approximately MP 43.0 and then run primarily within the median of the freeway until reaching Las Vegas.

Locating the BLW Rancho Cucamonga station adjacent to the existing Metrolink commuter rail station will make it convenient for passengers to transfer between systems and extend connectivity to all locations served by passenger rail in Southern California.

The project plans and specifications are being reviewed by Authority staff through a prior Design Services Agreement with BLW to ensure compliance with Authority standards and requirements.

## **Discussion**

The Construction and Maintenance (C&M) Agreement between BLW and the Authority addresses the roles and responsibilities of both parties through construction of the project and provides \$3,058,331.10 of funding for Authority support services to include Project Management, coordination, construction oversight, final connection, and inspection of required communications and signal relocations. BLW will provide the Authority with an advanced deposit of \$2,308,953.60 within 45 days of the execution of this Agreement, and before the Authority shall commence support. Authority support to the project is essential to ensure that all work will be undertaken in compliance with Authority safety practices, standards, and criteria to maintain safe and reliable operation of the Metrolink railroad and passenger services below.

The total estimated cost for BLW's station and viaduct structure is approximately \$700 million, with the BLW project costing over \$21.5 billion total and expected to commence revenue service in late 2028. BLW has secured funding from a combination of a Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail grant, a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity grant, and private sources. As a design-build project the plans, specifications, and estimate are at 60% completion, and construction is expected to begin in January 2026.

Upon completion, there will be no future maintenance responsibilities for the Authority associated with the new BLW viaduct and station structure.

BLW has a separate internal executive approval process that it is following in advance of this Agreement's execution.

### **Budget Impact**

There is no budgetary impact since this is a Third-Party funded Agreement. Cash flow impact will be mitigated by an advance deposit as described in the Discussion section.

### **Next Steps**

Upon Board authorization, the Construction and Maintenance Agreement for the Brightline West Project will be executed by both parties.

Prepared by: Katy Thorpe, Principal Engineer, Capital and Third-Party Construction  
Andy Althorp, Director, Capital Construction

Approved by: Justin Fornelli, Chief of Program Delivery

### **Attachment(s)**

[Presentation - Brightline West C&M Agreement](#)