

Coachella Rail Station Feasibility Study

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #4 – Summary Recap

September 2025

MEETING DETAILS

MEETING DETAILS		Thursday, September 11, 2025 5:00PM – 6:30PM
Zoom Presenters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 Presenters<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marie Lewis Adams – HDR• Joel Lessard-Clouston – HDR• David Bergman – Lisa Wise Consulting• Andrew Krizman – Sargent Town Planning• Kate Diamond – HDR	
Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 23 Total Participants<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 14 project team members○ 9 TAC members	
Technical Advisory Committee Attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dulce Lucero - City of Coachella Appointee• Pedro Rodriguez - Coachella Valley Housing Coalition• Raymond “Chip” West – College of the Desert• Mark Lancaster – Coachella Valley Association of Governments• J Reye Lopez – Inland Congregations United for Change• John Powell Jr – Peter Rabbit Farms• Larry Salas – Riverside Unincorporated Appointee• Greg Wildman – Sunline Transit Agency• Paul Mattern – Sunline Transit Agency	
Project Team Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kendra Reif – City of Coachella• Adrian Moreno – City of Coachella• Anahi Fernandez - City of Coachella• Italia Garcia – RCTC• Joel Lessard-Clouston – HDR• Kate Diamond – HDR• Marie Lewis Adams – HDR• Nicolas Valencia – HDR• Andrew Krizman – Sargent Town Planning• Russ Cunningham – Sargent Town Planning• David Bergman – Lisa Wise Consulting• Jadon Gershon-Friedberg – Lisa Wise Consulting• Jessica Harleaux – Arellano Associates• Rachael Potts – Arellano Associates	

I. WELCOME & PRESENTATION

A. Welcome/Introductions

A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting was held on September 11, 2025, to engage Coachella Valley stakeholders and community leaders on the Coachella Rail Station Feasibility Study and Integrated Land Use and Transit Network Project. The meeting provided an opportunity to review the feedback from the third community meeting and to share the refined station layout and draft design renderings. The meeting began with a welcome from Marie Lewis Adams (HDR), followed by brief introductions from the project team and the attendees.

B. Presentation

Following the introductions, Marie Lewis Adams outlined the study's purpose, its two-phase approach, and the importance of the Technical Advisory Committee in guiding direction and coordination. She reviewed past workshops and surveys that informed the site evaluation criteria, which included land use compatibility, environmental constraints, accessibility, ridership potential, and alignment with local development goals.

Joel Lessard-Clouston (HDR) provided updates on the technical analysis, focusing on bus loops, parking, and pedestrian circulation, while noting potential needs such as pedestrian bridges and rail adjustments. Andrew Krizman (Sargent Town Planning) connected sites to transit-oriented development goals, and David Bergman (Lisa Wise Consulting) addressed economic feasibility. Kate Diamond (HDR) provided an overview of the additional design and architectural considerations for the station. Following the formal presentation, a Q&A was opened for members to ask questions and provide feedback to the project team.

II. Q & A DISCUSSION

The purpose of the TAC meeting #4 was to provide the committee with updates on the study's progress and gather input. Committee members discussed preliminary conceptual station designs, community integration, and circulation.

Below is a summary of key discussion points and feedback from TAC members.

Discussion Section 1: Design & Safety

- **Q: Larry Salas, Riverside Unincorporated Appointee:** What is that structure on Grapefruit/4th? How's it going to be strong enough to sustain whatever might be going over it?

A: Kate Diamond, HDR: California has strict seismic codes. Diagonal bracing ensures we can span distance. This is conceptual now, but the final design will be engineered for earthquakes and structural safety.

Q: Larry Salas, Riverside Unincorporated Appointee: Since we border the San Andreas Fault, how is that considered?

A: Kate Diamond, HDR: Seismic resiliency is a mandate. The engineering will map and address fault risks.

Q: Larry Salas, Riverside Unincorporated Appointee: Claremont has a rail station—why not have at-grade crossings like there?

A: Kate Diamond, HDR: At-grade crossings require long right-of-way negotiations and could delay progress for years. That’s why this project proposes an above-grade crossover.

- **C: John Powell Jr., Peter Rabbit Farms:** This is the first time I’ve seen the design. I’d hate to see elements cut due to cost—it looks beautiful and responsive to input.

A: Kate Diamond, HDR: Many features can be prefabricated to control costs. Items like Talavera tile fencing are low-cost compared to the overall budget.

A: Marie Lewis Adams, HDR: We’ll refine cost estimates and prepare a phasing plan so elements can be built in stages.

Discussion Section 2: Community Use and Connectivity

- **C: Larry Salas, Riverside Unincorporated Appointee:** The site is near schools and an adult education center with over 1,000 students annually. Many could use the station. CVUSD spans to the Salton Sea. This bridge should remain open for access.

A: Marie Lewis Adams, HDR: Good point. The bridge will stay open for connectivity, even if platforms are gated at night.

- **C: Pedro S.G. Rodriguez, Coachella Valley Housing Coalition:** I’ve seen great examples in Carlsbad. Safety is critical, but I really like the design. This station can create jobs and economic opportunities. I hope we see it built soon.

A: Marie Lewis Adams, HDR: Thank you. Funding will require federal, local, and grant sources, and community support will help strengthen applications.

- **Q: Larry Salas, Riverside Unincorporated Appointee:** Where is funding coming from—city, county, or elsewhere?

A: Marie Lewis Adams, HDR: Rail line funding is led by RCTC, with likely federal support. The station and maintenance facility will rely on the city, supported by grants.

C: Larry Salas, Riverside Unincorporated Appointee: This project is necessary. Interstate congestion is overwhelming.

- **C: Greg Wildman, Sunline Transit Agency:** We have looked at the proposed plan, and Sunline's going to be submitting comments on bus pickup, rideshare, and taxi zones. Overall, the design is lovely.

A: Marie Lewis Adams, HDR: Thank you. We’ll share our reasoning for the layout and welcome further input.

Discussion Section 3: Engagement and Partnerships

- **Q: Larry Salas, Riverside Unincorporated Appointee:** Can I get the team’s contact information?

A: Marie Lewis Adams, HDR: Yes, it's online. We'll also drop emails in the chat.

A: Jessica Harleaux, Arellano Associates: We'll follow up and add you to our outreach database. We're also working on related projects like CV Link to the Salton Sea.

C: Larry Salas, Riverside Unincorporated Appointee: I've worked 30+ years in the school district and still teach citizenship. I'm also on the Ramona Bowl amphitheater board. I'm happy to share connections.

A: Kate Diamond, HDR: Wonderful. I'd love to connect further—we often collaborate on large community projects.

III. Closing

Marie Lewis Adams and Andrew Simmons closed the meeting by expressing appreciation for the TAC members' active participation and thoughtful feedback. They emphasized that input from the committee is essential in shaping both the station concepts and the surrounding area plan. The project team confirmed they will incorporate the discussion into refinements of the preliminary layouts, cost estimates, and economic development strategies.

The project team outlined the next steps, including continued technical analysis, preparation of a phasing plan for station elements, and further development of the draft station area plan and economic development strategy. The team noted that the next TAC meeting is planned for late fall 2025, where updated concepts and cost scenarios will be reviewed in greater detail. Members were encouraged to remain engaged, share additional comments after the meeting, and help inform and promote the upcoming October community workshop, where design concepts will be presented to the public.

IV. Appendix

[Meeting Presentation – September 11th, 2025](#)

[Meeting Recording - September 11th, 2025](#)

[Meeting Screenshots - September 11th, 2025](#)