

**Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
Work Program – Legislative – Planning Committee (WPLP)
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos CA**

MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: C. Stone (Chair), C. Chavez, M. Zmuda

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: J. Hartnett, J. Cassman, S. van Hoffen, S. Petty, M. Bouchard, D. Hansel, D. Seamans, S. Wong

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Charles Stone called the subcommittee meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

District Secretary Dora Seamans confirmed all the Committee members were present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Chair Stone extended public comments to three minutes.

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, commented on the timing of posting the SB 797 presentation.

4. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 22, 2020

Motion/Second: Chavez/Zmuda moved approval of the April 22, 2020 minutes

Ayes: Chavez, Zmuda, Stone

Noes: None

Absent: None

5. APPROVAL OF AMENDED AND RESTATED COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN PHASE II OF THE SAN JOSE DIRIDON INTEGRATED STATION CONCEPT PLAN

Sebastian Petty, Director of Policy Development, provided a brief update. He said they were seeking authority to enter into an amended cooperative agreement for the Diridon planning process. Mr. Petty explained that the original cooperative agreement was expiring though the work has been ongoing. He noted that the re-stated agreement would 1) extend the agreement and make the term open-ended, 2) would add the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) as a fifth partner, and 3) generalize language in the agreement to allow for more than one contractor for the various members. Mr. Petty said Caltrain's ongoing participation is funded through Measure B with \$750,000 for ongoing participation.

Board members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to Board comments and questions on the following: how long Measure B funds would last; whether the project would be complete after the second tranche of funds are allocated; completing details around the concept plan; the number of consulting firms engaged.

Public comment

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, commented on platform length discrepancy, the Diridon line, MTC contribution, the City of San Jose's participation with an request for proposal (RFP), and staff memo errors.

Motion/Second: Chavez/Zmuda moved approval of the amended agreement

Ayes: Chavez, Zmuda, Stone

Noes: None

Absent: None

6. CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON AUGUST 6, 2020 ON POTENTIAL CLOSURE OF THE ATHERTON STATION AND RELATED SERVICE CHANGES

Sebastian Petty, Director of Policy Development, provided a brief presentation, which included the following: there is a policy service to restore regular service after electrification; this station is one of a few remaining "hold out" rule stations; on January 15, 2020, the Atherton Town Council tentatively endorsed the station closure as a significant benefit to the town; they would be able to reallocate services to other stations; there would be financial savings; the town would benefit from noise reduction. Mr. Petty discussed the potential memorandum of understanding (MOUs) with the town. He said the preliminary costs would be between \$7-9 million and they are looking at possible funding sources. He discussed next steps as including Title VI analysis, environmental re-evaluations, and set a date for the station closure.

Public comment

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, expressed support for the closure, suggested opening a Redwood junction station and selling Atherton station land for revenue.

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, commented on printing agenda PowerPoint slides and expressed support for the closure.

Adrian Brandt commented on the requirement to prepare an addendum for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), dual speed check and warnings at Atherton grade crossings, constant warning times, and Communications Based Overlay Signal System (CBOSS).

Rich Hedges, San Mateo, expressed support for the closure.

Drew, San Mateo, expressed support for the item, requested a cost break down for the \$7-9 million, suggested a potential Fair Oaks station, and inquired about inconsistencies in the ability of cities to obtain requested items (such as bike paths, quiet zones, etc.).

Board members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to Board comments and questions regarding grade separation funding and Atherton closure funding.

Motion/Second: Zmuda/ Chavez moved approval of the hearing and potential closure

Ayes: Chavez, Zmuda, Stone

Noes: None

Absent: None

7. UPDATE SB 797 UPDATE

Seamus Murphy, Chief Communications Officer, stated that there were positive poll results and support for the sales tax measure during a time when they expected support to be lower. He said they expect to have a recommendation for the July 9th full Board meeting.

Ruth Bernstein, EMC Research, provided an update. She stated it was a multimodal poll of over 1,200 voters in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara County for the November electorate. Ms. Bernstein noted the key findings that voters valued Caltrain as a regional service, riders were planning to return back to Caltrain, and 63 percent indicated support with no information, and a significant growth in support when additional information was provided on the benefits. She noted the frequency of Caltrain ridership and responses to future Caltrain usage, comparing frequent to infrequent riders. Ms. Bernstein presented results on pre and post-pandemic driving behaviors, frequency, future driving behaviors, votes based on high or low voter turnout, votes by county, votes based on political party and home ownership. She presented votes after supporting and opposing messaging and recommended a privately funded campaign.

Board members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to Board comments and questions regarding oppositional messaging.

Public comment

Adina Levin, Friends of Caltrain, commented on the results, valuing Caltrain, supporting the Business Plan, getting cars off the road, equitable access, and review of policy around equity and connectivity.

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, stated that he was neither high income nor a tech worker and expressed support for dedicated funding. He asked about funding commitments from partner agencies after passage of the sales tax.

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, commented on the presentation, past performance, and 2014 PCEP documents and goals.

Adrian Brandt commented on the thoroughness of the presentation, encouraged forward momentum for the bill, and citizen support messaging for non-riders regarding equivalent lane capacity, BART level service, and emphasizing less traffic.

Monica Malin, Santa Clara, commented on the importance of riding Caltrain and moving forward with this. She disagreed with the generalization that Caltrain is for rich tech workers and expressed support for expanding riders.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUESTS

None.

9. DATE/TIME OF NEXT REGULAR WPLP COMMITTEE MEETING: JULY 22, 2020 AT 3:00 PM via Zoom.

10. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.