

**Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
Board of Directors Meeting
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos CA**

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 22, 2021
SPECIAL MEETING #6 - GOVERNANCE**

MEMBERS PRESENT: C. Chavez, D. Davis (Chair), J. Gee, G. Hendricks, S. Heminger (Vice Chair), D. Pine, C. Stone, M. Zmuda

MEMBERS ABSENT: S. Walton

STAFF PRESENT: M. Bouchard, D. Hansel, S. Petty, J. Harrison, C. Fromson, S. Petty, H. Husain, H. Permut, M. Jones, K. Miller, R. Amin, D. Seamans, S. Wong

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Dev Davis called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

District Secretary Dora Seamans called the roll and a quorum was confirmed.

2. CALTRAIN GOVERNANCE SPECIAL MEETING #5 (INCLUDING GOVERNANCE PROCESS UPDATES; RE-CAP AND REFINEMENT OF SELF-DIRECTED OPTIONS; APPROACH TO DEVELOPING A GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION; AND NEXT STEPS)

Chair Davis introduced the purpose of this meeting and the request from the previous meeting for a draft straw proposal recommendation.

Michelle Bouchard, Acting Executive Director, provided a presentation and discussed the status update on the straw proposal, ongoing productive discussions, and the materials for the Board for its November regular meeting.

Sebastian Petty, Deputy Chief of Planning, provided a presentation and discussed the objectives for Special Meeting #6 and Caltrain's interest in a regional system.

Ratna Amin, Regional Governance Consultant, provided a presentation, which included the following:

- The concept of regional conversation, no single "owner" of the regional conversation, and why it is important to Caltrain
- Many different areas of focus (coordination, delivery of capital projects, etc.)
- Many approaches and potential end states for regional coordination
- History of Bay Area Regional Transit change and Caltrain structural challenges

Public Comment

Vaughn commented on roads and interstate highways construction compared to rail construction.

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, commented on commuting patterns in the Bay Area, approach to regional governance, and replacing a bus agency with a regional rail agency.

Mark Roest, San Mateo, commented on possible areas of coverage spreading from the main line for people to move quickly from one place to another.

Adrian Brandt, San Mateo County, commented on transit landscape, travel demands in comparison to automobiles, and travel demand not caring about city boundaries.

Adina Levin, Friends of Caltrain, commented on climate change and challenges of regional coordination.

Ian Griffith, Seamless Bay Area, commented on highway system planning at the regional and state level and having a regional system for a competitive rail network.

Kieran Farr, San Francisco, commented on not having to understand a system in order to travel it and regional cooperation.

Marlene Santoyo, Newark, commented on multiple transfers when commuting, better regional coordination, and more effective capital projects.

Davis Turner, Burlingame, commented on goals with Caltrain, the downtown extension to San Francisco, free transfers, needing a regional manager, equitable transit system, and competing with automobiles.

Katie Miller, Facilitator, presented the following Board discussion options:

- The importance of Caltrain engaging in regional discussions
- Structural issues addressed through a regional governance mechanism
- Concerns about regionalized governance

The Board members had a discussion on Caltrain's regional conversation, which included the following:

- Success criteria for regional governance and participating and engaging in large regional discussions with all fixed rail and transit properties together, not separate
- Self-directed governance needs to position Caltrain for regional governance
- Focusing on solutions for transit hotspots and the cause of delays for major capital projects
- Railroads versus bus system investment as a regional institution
- Having fewer railroads or sharing more functions together and finding regional allies
- Local service at the expense of regional service
- Having frequent trips closer to home and more people staying closer to home more often

- Benefits for being part of a larger body and aspirational goals of being part of a larger organization
- Larger organizations taking longer to reach decisions and being less nimble
- Concern that Measure RR funds at successor agencies will not be spent on Caltrain concerns
- Ensuring that funds are spent on what was intended by the voters and how to unwind the different colors of money will be complicated
- The positives of regional discussions include fare and schedule integration and regional approaches to construction projects
- Get expenditures totals for each of the agencies (slide 21) for Caltrain, "other operating/subsidies" and denote what source of funds are for better understanding
- Caltrain has its own independent auditor and can help provide better understanding on investments between SamTrans and Caltrain
- Future service connections in between Bart and Caltrain and that there are currently two counties not within BART's service area.

Sebastian Petty, Deputy Chief of Planning, provided a presentation, which included the following:

- Active and emerging regional initiatives and discussions
- Staff's regular regional updates to the JPB
- Clipper 2.0 - next generation payment system - release estimated summer 2023
- Link21 Program (between Oakland and San Francisco) part of Plan Bay Area
- Other Regional Governance Discussions (BART-Caltrain "merger" potential)

Melissa Jones, Deputy Director Caltrain Policy Development, provided a presentation, which included the following:

- Regional Fare Coordination & Integration Study
- Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force – Regional Transit Transformation Action Plan
- The next regional effort led by MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) is the Transit Network Management Business Case and looking at different options for a transit network manager
- Bay Area Regional Rail Partnerships - Project Delivery & Governance
- MTC Resolution 3434 Update - Megaproject Advancement Policy replaced with Plan Bay Area) between 2035-2050

The Board members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions regarding:

- Progress on the Transit Network Management Business case
- Link21 description and Regional Rail Partnership scope and Caltrain participation
- The Board should have input on the scope of both items before they are finalized
- Indicating when projects began and how they interconnect
- Conversations at the Board level to scope out mutual engagement of issues between regions

Public Comment

Mark Roest, San Mateo, commented on creating connectivity between a heavy rail system and all other locations in the Bay Area and having a bicycle friendly system.

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, commented on Caltrain staff, merging, administration contract renewal and Link21.

Tessa Woodmansee commented on electrification to Gilroy, diesel issues, fossil fuel bus going to Gilroy and electrification.

Vaughn Wolffe, Pleasanton, commented on road and rail projects, and roads copied the rail links that were there before them.

Don Cecil, San Francisco, commented on fare integration, regional options, and Board participation.

Ian Griffith, Seamless Bay Area, commented on integrating service schedules, fares, branding with BART, evaluating governance change, and looking at regional buses.

Adrian Brandt, San Mateo County, commented on seamless transit, best practices, and emulating successful systems.

Gerald Cauthen commented on a concerted effort and not making this complex.

Adina Levin, Friends of Caltrain, commented on serving public interest in fares, branding, and capital projects, and having an all-agency transit pass.

Calvin Quick, San Francisco, commented on encouraging riders throughout multiple agencies.

Michelle Bouchard, Acting Executive Director, noted that there was a lot of ongoing regional discussion influencing multiple systems. She stated they would receive guidance from the Board to determine which tables Caltrain should be at and how to drive the outcomes based on the 2040 Service Vision Plan and expanding accountability to riders.

Katie Miller, Facilitator, provided the following topics for Board Discussion:

- Regional Processes that may be of interest
- Regional outcomes they would like to see for Caltrain

The Board members had a discussion, which included the following:

- Separating coordination efforts from governance changes
- Presenting benefits and financial implications and how they relate to long term system sustainability
- How much money is distributed to agencies for projects
- Megaproject participation

- The degree of involvement in these initiatives and the scale of resource commitment that needs to be parsed out
- Capabilities for follow through
- Financial sustainability and equity coming with a cost
- Cost estimate for Link21
- Cost of a different governance structure, convenience and benefit to the public
- Being involved in long term coordination
- Staffing capacity to manage all internal and external demands
- Caltrain having a dedicated Executive Director going forward (formalized and recognized) having a bearing on regional discussions
- The current Executive Director's involvement in regional activities

Katie Miller, Facilitator, provided the following topics for Board Discussion:

- Should the 2021 JPB recommendation address the potential for regional governance change
- Initial thoughts on how to frame a recommendation

The Board members had a discussion on above questions, which included the following:

- Regional coordination is important, and it makes sense for rail operators to drive this discussion and coordination, as we have fixed stations and schedules that are less flexible than other modes
- Continuing ongoing discussions with BART and branch into fare and branding alignment
- Self-directed governance option not precluding a regional change
- Regional talks do not need to be lengthy and there is no need to wait to get better at seamless coordination
- Specifying the recommendation and focusing on self-direction with strong oversight on the executive director
- Wayfinding and signage improvements
- Roles in talks and initiatives
- Whatever is decided does not preclude the governance conversation
- Potentially considering a resolution at the December Board meeting

Sebastian Petty, Deputy Chief of Planning, noted that this was the last special governance meeting with draft language to be provided at the regular Board meeting on November 4th for Board consideration. If there is consensus forming for potential action, then the Board may consider something at its December meeting.

3. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:54 pm.

An audio/video recording of this meeting is available online at www.Caltrain.com. Questions may be referred to the Board Secretary's office by phone at 650.508.6242 or by email to Board@Caltrain.com.