

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)
PENINSULA CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS BOARD (JPB)
SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos CA 94070**

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: A. Brandt (Vice Chair), A. Dagum, P. Flautt, L. Klein, P. Leung, N. Mathur (Alternate) K. Maxwell (Alternate), M. Romo, D. Tuzman, B. Shaw (Chair)

MEMBERS ABSENT: R. Kutler

STAFF PRESENT: H. Flores, D. Lieberman, C. Low, J. Navarrete, J. Navarro, R. Sebez

Due to COVID-19, this meeting was conducted as a teleconference pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, which suspends certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Chair Brian Shaw called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF CAC MEMBERS

Chair Brian Shaw announced the reappointment of CAC Members.

- Chair Brian Shaw
- Member Patricia Leung

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ALTERNATE CAC MEMBERS

Chair Brian Shaw introduced the new Alternate CAC Members

- Kathleen Maxwell, San Francisco County
- Neeraj Mathur, Santa Clara County

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 19, 2020

Motion/Second: Romo / Klein

Ayes: Brandt, Dagum, Flautt, Leung, Tuzman, Shaw

Absent: Kutler

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, via Zoom Q&A, mentioned that Public Comment was not called after the Chairman's Report. He then extended his congratulations for changing the bylaws to appoint the Alternate Committee Members and also congratulated Chair Shaw on his reappointment.

Aleta Dupree, via Zoom Q&A, stated that she appreciates that Equity is advertised on the front page of the Caltrain website. She encouraged continuing to advocate for the construction of Electrification as she is concerned with the pace of completing the foundations and to continue advocacy with Safe Transit. She stated that she would like to see people return to the railroad and that connectivity with bicycles, shuttles and scooters are very important to help reduce cars on the road. Lastly, she congratulated the newly appointed and reappointed CAC Members.

Sonia Elkes, via Zoom Q&A, shared that she started a bicycle and pedestrian safety, all sustainable micro mobility active transport advocacy organization, a few years ago, called San Carlos Bikes. She stated that recently with COVID, the fires, the climate issues, the drought and the sea level rise concerns, etc., in San Carlos, it is becoming increasingly concerning that San Carlos is not alternate mobility friendly enough. She then stated that there are a lot of frustrated youth whose schools are closed, playgrounds are closing, and blacktops are closed, that want to ride through the closed area of Laurel Street and other streets and are trying to push their limits and have no good place to do it. She stated that her organization reached out to Caltrain and requested to use the Caltrain parking lot, just north of Arroyo on El Camino, in San Carlos to put up temporary ramps and use that as a temporary mini skatepark, bike park, scooter and roller skating area to get people active. She then stated that Caltrain declined her request. She stated that she will send a follow up letter with details and requested the Committee's support.

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, via Zoom Q&A, Jeff Carter congratulated Brian and Patricia on their reappointment and stated that Brian has been doing a great job as Chairman. He then welcomed the newly appointed Alternate CAC Members, Neeraj and Kathleen. Jeff then stated that during his daily travels to the Caltrain Millbrae station, he observes a lot of single tracking which indicates electrification construction work and other projects along the corridor and appreciates the work being done and moving forward.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

None

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Member David Tuzman welcomed the new Alternate CAC Members.

Member Anna Dagum expressed her appreciation with public commenter Sonia Elkes' interest in building a pop-up skate/bike park in the San Carlos parking lot. Member Dagum expressed her support for the idea proposed to Caltrain staff.

Vice Chair Adrian Brandt stated that he was pleased that it has formally been made on the record that the High Speed Rail Authority's operation of high speed trains, makes it necessary for Caltrain to add extra passing tracks and that the High Speed Rail Authority really should be responsible for defraying the cost of those and participating in paying for all of them are some of them. Vice Chair Brandt then stated that with the ongoing COVID crisis ridership is down at BART, SMART and Caltrain. He said that it is important that Caltrain makes people feel safe riding the train.

Member Patricia Leung welcomed the new Alternate CAC Members and was happy to have been reappointed.

Member Patrick Flautt welcomed the new Alternate CAC Members and was glad for Chair Shaw and Member Leung to have been reappointed. Member Flautt then expressed his hope for Caltrain to support Public Commenter, Sonia Elkes' request. He then stated that he also supports her request proposed to Caltrain.

Member Larry Klein welcomed the new Alternate CAC Members and congratulated the reappointed Members.

Member Martin Romo congratulated those Members reappointed and welcomed the new Alternate Members. Member Romo referred to Public Speaker Sonia's earlier comment and requested staff to address Caltrain Real Estate assets and their plans for some of the properties. He stated that some of the community's concerns are regarding Caltrain's land that is not being used and that the reality is that a lot of these lands are being used, or planned for being leveraged in some way in the near future. He stated that at one point the Transit Oriented Development item was on the Work Plan for a future meeting discussion and would be great to see that item scheduled to the Agenda. He then suggested including the plans for some of the Caltrain parking areas and generally how those can be used and leveraged in the future to address some of the ideas that the Public Speaker brought up earlier.

Public Comments:

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, via Zoom Q&A, stated that regarding High Speed Rail Authority, there are two issues and referenced the Correspondence Packet. He stated that first there are two violations with Prop 1A. The first one is that they are supposed to be connecting San Jose to San Francisco in thirty minutes, not forty-eight. The second violation is that the terminus in San Francisco is the Transbay Terminal, not Fourth and King. He then stated that there is no need for passing tracks in Redwood City if there is a passing station at Redwood Junction. He then stated that there is also no need for maintenance *inaudible* Brisbane if the Transbay tube is opened first. Roland then stated that there is a Memo from the High-Speed Rail Authority indicating that when the train stops at the station, there is no need for passing tracks. Lastly, Roland stated that expecting a train to show up every 15 minutes works when all trains have the same stopping pattern and is unrealistic when there is a mix of traffic on the line with trains passing others, etc.

BAY AREA HEALTHY TRANSIT PLAN / BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Robert Sebez Deputy Director, System Safety and Security, presented the Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan

The full Power Point presentation can be found on caltrain.com

Committee Comments:

Member Larry Klein asked what the plan on how the surveys be conducted and the numbers be kept. Mr. Sebez responded that there would be a certain percentage that is representative of ridership during times that is representative of peak times to ensure that the numbers that are going out give an accurate depiction to riders of what compliance per mass is. Member Klein then asked when the first update will happen. Robert Sebez then responded that preliminary numbers were already gathered, and the findings were very good at approximately the 93rd percentile. Mr. Sebez stated that with the preliminary findings, we are essentially going live after that and want to make sure that the numbers are accurate and that it is what riders are getting.

Member David Tuzman asked whether there is a timeline for getting the data metrics about Compliance and Employee Contact Tracing, not only Caltrain but the other transit agencies. Mr. Sebez responded that he is not aware of an official timeline, but that he believes that it is targeted for some mid next month. Mr. Tuzman stated that there is a lot of talk about encouraging compliance, however nothing specifically about enforcement and asked whether there have been talk about how to encourage compliance. Mr. Sebez stated that encouraging compliance is done through the messaging. Mr. Joe Navarro, Deputy Chief, Rail Operations, stated that Caltrain is doing well with ninety-three percent compliance, of face coverings.

Alternate Member Kathleen Maxwell asked what percentage of ridership has returned and Mr. Navarro responded six percent.

Vice Chair Adrian Brandt asked whether Caltrain conductors will be equipped with face masks to provide to customers that do not have them. Mr. Navarro responded that staff would take that into consideration.

Public Comments:

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, via Zoom Q&A, shared that he was on the train and found that conductors and passengers were complying and wearing masks and that there were not many people riding the train. Jeff then asked how Caltrain would handle ridership if it went up and crowded trains again and how would Caltrain comply with Social Distancing.

Sonia Elkes, via Zoom Q&A, stated that she is riding the train frequently with her son from San Carlos to South San Francisco with a bike. She shared that both she and her son love it and are very appreciative for the service and the ability to take the bike on the train. She stated that she is taking the train four times a day, for drop off and pick up.

She stated that she did forget her mask one day and would be grateful if there was a mask available for her to use onboard.

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, via Zoom Q&A, stated that the initial recommendation of the three-foot social distancing came from, ultimately, London. He stated that due to the combination of only social distancing three feet and people not wearing masks, London is experiencing an additional 3000 cases a day and that he hopes we continue to social distance six feet and enforce wearing facemasks. He stated that London will follow the example of Sri Lanka and if anybody is caught without wearing a face mask, they will automatically be put in a fourteen-day quarantine. He hopes that does not happen in California.

COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

Henry Flores, Deputy Director, Rail Vehicle Maintenance, presented the COVID-19 Safety Measures

The full Power Point presentation can be found on caltrain.com

Committee Comments:

Member Patrick Flautt thanked Mr. Flores for the presentation. Member Flautt then asked what the cost is for implementing one of the social distancing kits and why start on just one train and not just do them all. Lastly, he suggested broadcasting this news as it is good news for Caltrain. He asked whether there is a Social Media campaign that may take a tour of that car. Henry Flores responded that kits are approximately \$10,000 each, without installation, however staff will be purchasing one to determine what parts are needed and will be reducing cost by eliminating parts not needed. Mr. Navarro also stated that social distancing is not a problem with the current ridership and that a prototype will be made to ensure they are secured and not flimsy enough to break when the customers get on. This gives staff the opportunity to request modifications from the company supplying the kits, minimizing cost. Member Flautt requested an updated of the installed kits in a future meeting. Mr. Navarro confirmed.

Member Martin Romo thanked Henry for the presentation and asked with what frequency the pure tap fogging occurs. Mr. Flores responded that the cars are fogged every night and in between stops where the schedule allows throughout the day in San Francisco and back at CEMOF when cars are refueling and on the service inspection lanes. Mr. Flores also mentioned that the crews have the handheld battery fogger for tight spots.

Vice Chair Adrian Brandt stated that it would be nice for Caltrain to have statistics to boast about as BART has on their website. He then encouraged the availability of hand sanitizer, wall mounted hand sanitizer pumps. He then suggested maximizing the use of Bombardier sets and minimize the use of Gallery car sets, since those will be eliminated post electrification. Lastly, Vice Chair Brandt referred to the diagram in the PowerPoint Presentation showing the passenger flows in a Bombardier car. He suggested moving left to right so that someone could walk in a circle and so that conductors walking the

length of the train do not have to walk contraflow. If the arrows move left to right on the upstairs, it solves this problem. He stated that the advantage of changing the arrows is that someone who walks towards the exit and cannot find a seat, they can walk upstairs and walk back the other direction. They essentially can walk in a circle. Mr. Navarro stated staff will take those comments into consideration with the prototype.

Public Comments:

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, via Zoom Q&A, shared his delight because the May 15th Board Correspondence Packet contains his letter titled Restoring Caltrain Ridership and is close to what he suggested five months ago. He asked Chair Shaw, why it took five months. He then stated that the last point in his letter was the catastrophe of ridership dropping 95%. He said the he asked the Board to give Mr. Hartnett an ultimatum to either have Samtrans restore Caltrain ridership back to 10% or the equivalent to this time last year, or he will ask the Board in January, to entertain a motion appointing a new Executive Director and one of the first tasks would be to start effecting a smooth transition from Samtrans to *inaudible* Administration.

RAIL SAFETY EDUCATION / SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS

Dan Lieberman, Public Affairs Specialist, Government and Community, presented the Rail Safety Education / Suicide Prevention Efforts with Guest Speaker Zena Andreani from San Mateo County

The full Power Point presentation can be found on caltrain.com

Committee Comments:

Member Patrick Flautt thanked both Dan and Zena for bringing energy to a presentation that is very serious. Member Flautt liked that Caltrain is taking actionable steps forward to address the issue.

Vice Chair Adrian Brandt referenced the fatalities chart and stated that it is not accurate and has identified the problem. He stated that out of approximately 140 total fatalities columns, not one is identified as indeterminate. He stated all are either in the suicide or unintended column. He then stated that some suicides are not obviously suicides, so the Sheriff's authority or the coroner will always err on the side of unintentional if it is not obviously a suicide. Vice Chair Brandt believes that the unintended column contains numerous nonobvious suicides that are not able to be determined. He suggested adding an indeterminate column. Vice Chair Brandt then stated that no amount of fencing would prevent these because Caltrain has open platforms and open grade crossings. He stated that it is not a safety problem and that it is a suicide problem. Lastly, Vice Chair Brandt stated that the most avoidable potential cause of death was not addressed in the presentation. He said there is a continuous flagrant violation of numerous vehicle codes, where people queue across the tracks because they are impatient and stop on the tracks and find themselves trapped on the tracks when the gates activate. He suggested guaranteed tickets via automated enforcement that can be camera enforcement. He said that if there is a guaranteed citation, that behavior will go away. He also acknowledged that

accidental vehicles on the tracks are being addressed with the "turtles" by staff. Mr. Navarro responded that Rail Operations works with the Sheriff's Department closely and have been doing blitzes at Broadway and other Grade Crossings on the regular basis. He also stated that the "turtles" were installed on September 3rd at Churchill Avenue and currently conducting a study to hopefully move forward. Mr. Navarro then stated that staff is still working on painting the envelope red to warn drivers and working with Federal Highway Commission and the CPUC on that. Vice Chair Brandt asked whether staff has tried to get an article in the Daily Post. Mr. Lieberman confirmed that staff has sent a Press Release.

Member David Tuzman thanked Dan and Zena for the interesting presentation and was impressed by Caltrain seeing the responsibility to combat the suicide that peaked some years ago and trying to improve the situation, especially now more than ever with so much uncertainty. He said that it is important to destigmatize the discussion around suicide and mental health.

Public Comments:

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, via Zoom Q&A, shared his appreciation with what Caltrain is doing with safety and suicide prevention. He said that it is important to solve this problem and although it may not prevent all suicides, it is worth saving any suicides.

STAFF REPORT UPDATE

Joe Navarro, Deputy Chief, Rail Operations, reported:
(The full report can be found on caltrain.com)

On-time Performance (OTP) –

- **August:** The August 2020 OTP was 95.7% compared to 93.9% for August 2019.
 - **Mechanical Delays** – In August 2020 there were 639 minutes of delay due to mechanical issues compared to 719 minutes in August 2019.
 - **Trespasser Strikes** – There was one trespasser strike on August 4, resulting in a fatality.
- **July:** The July 2020 OTP was 96.4% compared to 93.8% for July 2019.
 - **Trespasser Strikes** – There was one trespasser strike on July 17, resulting in a fatality.

(The full report can be found on caltrain.com)

Committee Comments:

Vice Chair Adrian Brandt asked whether productivity is improving. Mr. Navarro responded that original work was scheduled off peak hours on non-revenue hours and now we are giving them all day and single tracking 24/7. He stated that the crews are working six days a week and on the seventh day, they need to rest. Vice Chair Brandt then asked whether Caltrain is paying TASI to support Balfour Beatty. Mr. Navarro responded and confirmed that it was already budgeted for in the project.

Public comments:

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, via Zoom Q&A, pointed out that Measure RR is on the November 3rd ballot and is very important for Caltrain, the one eighth sales tax for all three counties. He mentioned that he has already seen two nasty letters to the Editor of the San Mateo Daily Journal saying to vote no, claiming Caltrain is only for rich people.

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, via Zoom Q&A, talked about electrification south of Diridon and stated that there is a video out there dated July and it shows poles missing as it goes over Highway 87 over the Guadalupe River Bridge. He stated that he will request the plans as he does not see any way there will be electrification south of Diridon, including Tamien station itself.

JPB CAC Work Plan

October 21, 2020

- Brown Act Training
- Website Presentation
- PCEP Update

November 18, 2020

- Grade Crossing Improvements
- Industry Safe Functionality
- South San Francisco

December 16, 2020

- Government Affairs update
- Hillsdale Station

Items to be scheduled

- Go Pass cost per ride factors – requested by Chair, Brian Shaw on 6/19/19
- San Mateo County Climate Action Plan – requested by Member Rosalind Kutler on 10/16/19
- MTC Means-Based Discount Fare program update
- Caltrain connections with other agencies – requested by Member Rosalind Kutler on 12/18/19
- Update on grade crossing pilot six months after installation – requested by Member, Patrick Flautt on 12/18/19

- Summary video of the CAC meetings by the Social Media Officer – requested by Chair, Brian Shaw on 12/18/19
- Operating Costs – requested by Member Adrian Brandt on 2/13/20
- Sales Tax Measure – requested by Member Adrian Brandt on 7/8/20
- EMU Virtual Reality

Public comments:

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, via Zoom Q&A, stated that he requested for the Caltrain CAC to receive an update on the Downtown Extension, however, has been advised that the Caltrain CAC is too busy to schedule an update on the Downtown Extension. He asked whether the response came from staff or the CAC. Chair Shaw stated that he and the Vice Chair will talk to staff at the monthly CAC Agenda meeting in a few weeks.

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

October 21, 2020 at 5:40 p.m., San Mateo County Transit District Administrative Building, 2nd Floor Bacciocco Auditorium, 1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA.

Adjourned at 7:29 pm