

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

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2019**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** A. Brandt, A. Dagum, M. Romo, P. Leung, R. Kutler, B. Shaw  
(Chair)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** L. Klein, R. Valenciana (Vice Chair)

**STAFF PRESENT:** T. Bartholomew, J. Navarrete, J. Navarro, C. Scarella, S.  
VanHoffen

Chair Brian Shaw called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW CAC MEMBER**

Chair Brian Shaw introduced newly appointed San Francisco County committee member, Rosalind Kutler.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, 2019**

Motion/Second: Brandt / Romo

Ayes: Dagum, Leung, Shaw

Abstain: Kutler

Absent: Klein, Valenciana

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Roland stated that in the last Board Meeting the ridership numbers were presented. He stated that the data reflected that both the Bullet trains and the Limited trains are way over capacity, however that ridership is dropping on both of those trains and that the ridership on local trains is increasing. He stated that the reason for the change in ridership is because those passengers are switching to local trains. Roland proposes to increase the length of the trains that are over 130% capacity to seven cars. He said that the Caltrain can use the Stadler cars that will be sitting around due to the delay with the EMUs. He suggested to push these cars with Diesel and to deploy them on the Gilroy service.

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, stated that his comments are in regards to the annual passenger counts and that his full comments can be found in the reading packet. He stated that

the ridership report is incomplete as it does not include, Mondays, Fridays or weekends. He stated that staff cannot recalibrate without that information. He also stated that the Ridership Report from Chicago Metra, similar to Caltrain, includes whether gas prices work in downtown Chicago and suggests having Caltrain put out a report similar to theirs.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

None

### **COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

None

### **RECOMMENDATION TO AMEND THE BY-LAWS TO INCLUDE ALTERNATE CAC MEMBERS**

Chair Brian Shaw reported that this item was added due to a suggestion from the public to add alternate members in case one of the committee members was unable to attend to form a quorum. A quorum is made up of at least five members present. This amendment, to the bylaws, is to ensure there is a quorum at every CAC meeting. Chair Shaw welcomed Legal Counsel, Shayna VanHoffen to help answer any questions.

The Committee discussed several options and it was decided, with the help of Shayna VanHoffen, to include one alternate per county and to have them abide by the same attendance guidelines as the CAC members do. In addition, the alternates would receive the same information as the current CAC members would. The committee also suggested that the alternate would serve when terms have expired and that solicitation for both the alternate and the vacant committee seat would happen simultaneously. Shayna notified the committee that she would amend the bylaws to include the recommendations and would return next month to present the recommended amendments for the committee's approval to be presented to the Board.

#### Public comment:

Roland stated that he did not hear an incentive for alternate members and wanted to suggest a substitute motion. He stated that there should be two alternates. He said that there should be notice well in advance and that the alternates would have a choice on who would attend the meeting. He then stated that the alternate's attendance should be tracked and that the alternate with the highest attendance would serve on the committee. He said that it would incentivize the alternates to attend the meetings.

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, agrees with Adrian that alternates should attend the meetings and be present with the intent to serve at a moment's notice. He also stated that he agrees with one alternate per county and that the attendance guidelines should align with the member's attendance guidelines so that they are up to date and able to serve.

Drew stated that these alternates would serve as a fourth representative for each county and inevitably in almost every meeting they will serve as not all members are always present. He stated that if the alternate assumes the vacant chair on the committee then the efforts would only focus on obtaining an alternate. He also suggested amending the order of the business in the bylaws since they are being amended already.

### **COMMITTEE POLL TO RECOMMEND AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS TO THE BOARD**

Committee was polled to recommend amendment to include one alternate per county and to have them abide by the same guidelines as the CAC members.

Agreed: Brandt, Romo, Dagum, Leung, Kutler, Shaw

Opposed: None

Absent: Klein, Valenciana

Shayna will draft recommended amendments to the bylaws for the committee's approval, next month, to be presented to the Board.

### **OPERATING & CAPITAL BUDGETS**

Cynthia Scarella, Manager, Budgets, presented Operating & Capital Budgets to the committee.

The full PowerPoint presentation can be found on [caltrain.com](http://caltrain.com)

#### Public Comment:

Roland stated that this presentation is stale information as the preliminary was presented to the Board in May and the final was presented to the Board in June. He stated that this information should have been presented to the CAC in May to have made recommendations for the final presentation made in June. He requested staff not to allow this to happen again for next year. Roland also stated that Caltrain needs to eliminate the need for operating subsidies from the three counties.

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, agrees that the budget should come to the CAC before it goes to the Board to include CAC input. He stated that it is great that budget is balanced this year. He stated that the problem is that because ridership has gone up so drastically over the years along with revenue, the partner agencies have been able to decrease their contributions historically to Caltrain. He stated that transit is underfunded and should be funded as highways and airports are. He is concerned that Caltrain will need to rely on fares. He hopes that Caltrain can find more sources of funding.

#### Committee Comments:

Member Adrian Brandt agreed with the public comment and would like to see these presentations presented to the CAC before they become five months old. This will give the committee the opportunity to pass along their thoughts to the Board. He stated that he wanted to ask about the TASI labor contracts and operating baseline

expenditures. He said that to his knowledge that when there are additional cars added to the train, that onboard staff also needs to be increased. He asked what it would take to go to a one man operation when to become more efficient. He also asked whether in the Capital cost, staff is looking at lengthening the station platforms to accommodate longer trains. Ms. Cynthia responded that the Electrification program includes station modifications.

Chair Brian Shaw asked why the presentation was presented to the CAC late. Mr. Joe Navarro responded that although it was not provided, he also did push for it to be presented prior to it being presented to the Board and will work to request this information ahead of time. Mr. Brian Shaw requested that this be added to the standing work plan for May 2020.

Member Rosalind asked whether shade for the platforms is being contemplated as part of the budget due to the climate change becoming more of an issue. Ms. Cynthia stated that she would review further and report back.

### **RAIL SAFETY EDUCATION / SUICIDE PREVENTION**

Tasha Bartholomew, Communication Manager, presented the Rail Safety Education / Suicide Prevention Efforts to the committee. Presenters from San Mateo County, Islam Hassanein and Sylvia Tang presented on the San Mateo Suicide Prevention committee (SPC).

The full PowerPoint presentation can be found on [caltrain.com](http://caltrain.com)

#### Public Comment:

Roland stated that there were many teen suicides in Palo Alto and that putting fencing and guards at the grade crossing along with counseling at the schools, helped prevent further suicides. However now there are problems with the new Hillsdale station as it will be an island platform in the middle of a High Speed Rail Line that will be running at 110 mph. He stated that staff has the opportunity to do two things; staff can redesign the station to ensure that the bullets and the high speed rail do not go near the tracks and then to change the Caltrain engineering standards. He stated that Bayshore and Lawrence have four tracks, but only have one fence. With a four track station, two fences are needed. Lastly, Roland stated that level boarding will never happen at Hillsdale because freight will hit the platforms.

#### Committee Comments:

The committee members each thanked Tasha and the presenters for their presentation on the very important issue.

Member Anna Dagum asked whether there will be a 3-digit suicide hotline as with 9-1-1. Ms. Islam responded that there are efforts to create a National Suicide Prevention Life Line and that they are finding ways to connect all crisis centers to it and that the National Suicide Prevention Line oversees that.

Member Adrian Brandt said that he is pleased to see that suicide is being talked about and that since no one talked about suicide, every death was considered an accident and not a suicide. He stated that there needs to be an understanding of what is happening, in order to solve the problem and to ensure that there are no further misdirected efforts towards safety. He stated that the only places that have resolved this problem are where platform screen doors have been installed. Member Brandt asked Tasha how long it typically takes to determine cause of death for reporting purposes. Tasha responded that it depends on the backlog of the coroner's office and that there have been instances that it took over a year. On slide twelve, Member Brandt suggested there be an extra column to determine unknown cause of death because not all deaths are deterministic.

Member Martin Romo requested to include location of where the incidents occurred and whether it was grade separated to possibly identify a trend. Tasha responded that these incidents have occurred all along the corridor and that she can provide the data for the past few years.

Chair Brian Shaw stated that it may be helpful to provide context and compare to like railroads. This could potentially identify whether there is a specific issue with Caltrain or determine that other railroads have the same issue. Ms. Tasha asked Mr. Joe Navarro what his experience has been working at other railroads and Mr. Navarro stated that the numbers are about the same if not more at other railroads in his experience. Chair Shaw then asked why he did not see San Francisco listed as a Community Partner on slide fourteen. Ms. Tasha responded that she and her team have not been able to obtain a representative from that county. Ms. Islam from San Mateo County also stated that San Francisco does not have the equivalent of a committee as San Mateo and Santa Clara counties do. Chair Shaw also requested staff to provide drilled down data as it may be helpful in terms of prevention and identify possible patterns. Ms. Tasha stated that she would be able to provide that data with next year's presentation.

### **STAFF REPORT UPDATE**

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

Mr. Navarro started by saying that fencing the entire railroad is a priority and that staff's fencing efforts have been recognized by the several Federal Railroad Agency members, (FRA).

### **On-time Performance (OTP)**

- **August:** The August 2019 OTP was 93.9% compared to 93% for August 2018.
  - **Vehicle on Tracks** – There were three days August 13, 16 and 21, with a vehicle on the tracks that caused train delays. Mr. Navarro stated that the FRA agreed to help staff partner with the CPUC to obtain waivers in order to implement efforts to prevent vehicles on the tracks.

- **Mechanical Delays** – \*correction made to the report online - In August 2019 there were 669\* minutes of delay due to mechanical issues compared to 905 minutes in August 2018.  
\*corrected from staff report located online
- **Trespasser Strikes** – There were two trespasser strikes on August 10 and 29, resulting in fatalities.
- **July:** The July 2019 OTP was 93.8% compared to 90.5% for July 2018.
  - **Trespasser Strikes** – There was one trespasser strike on July 12 and two trespasser strikes on July 22, all resulting in fatalities.
- **Caltrain Fall 2019 Timetable Update** – Caltrain, in collaboration with the communities of Gilroy, Morgan Hill, and San Jose as well as representatives from VTA and Santa Clara County have been working on plans to improve service on the Caltrain corridor between San Jose and Gilroy. In the near term, Caltrain will adjust Gilroy Service this Fall.

Effective Monday, Oct. 7, 2019, Caltrain will adjust its southbound Gilroy service based on feedback provided by South Santa Clara County riders in a survey conducted on April 23, 2019 that indicated their preference to have an earlier train between the first two trains.

- Train 262 will provide service to all stations from Tamien Station to Gilroy Station. Train 262 will also stop at Lawrence Station.
- Train 274 will no longer serve stations south of Tamien Station and will terminate at Tamien station.
- The last train to stations south of Tamien station will be Train 268.
- Northbound service from Gilroy will remain unchanged.

New Timetable available at [www.caltrain.com/GilroyService](http://www.caltrain.com/GilroyService).

Public comment:

Roland asked why the fencing efforts mentioned in the staff report was not included in the Rail Safety Education / Suicide Prevention Efforts presentation. Roland agreed with the committee that the incident data needs to include the location of the fatalities. Lastly regarding the Gilroy service change, he requested staff to have the train that picks up at 8:18 to travel all the way to Tamien.

Committee comment:

Member Adrian stated that he is encouraged with the possibility of regulatory relief with helping keep the vehicles off of the tracks. Adrian suggested crossing gates across the tracks that stay down until a train approaches. There would be a reflective barrier in the way to help prevent a vehicle on the tracks. Mr. Brandt then asked whether the passenger counter on the EMUs will be weight-based. Mr. Navarro stated that they will

not and that passengers and bikes will be counted. He also stated that he is working on obtaining people counters at the 4<sup>th</sup> and King station. Member Brandt also asked about the delay with electrification due to the constant warning time solution for the crossing gates, dual speed system or dual speed measurement approach and he requested staff to present on this topic. Chair Shaw requested this item be added to the Items to be Scheduled section of the Work Plan. Lastly, he requested staff to add filler necks to the water fountains. Mr. Navarro stated that SFK will have the bathrooms renovated and would look into adding those. Chair Shaw also requested that item to be added to the Work Plan.

### **JPB CAC Work Plan**

#### October 16, 2019

- Camera System / Grade Crossing Improvements
- 529 Update
- TVM Upgrade update

#### November 20, 2019

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#### December 18, 2019

- MTC Means-Based Discount Fare program update
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#### Items to be scheduled

- Schedule Audit – requested on 3/6/18 by Member Lauren Fernandez
- Presentation on a plan to clean-up right of way – requested by Chair, Brian Shaw on 8/15/18
- Go Pass cost per ride factors – requested by Chair, Brian Shaw on 6/19/19
- Distance Based Fares – requested by Chair, Brian Shaw on 6/19/19

### **DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

October 16, 2019 at 5:40 p.m., San Mateo County Transit District Administrative Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Bacciocco Auditorium, 1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA.

Adjourned at 8:08 pm