

Memorandum

Date: December 15, 2022

To: Local Policy Makers Group (LPMG)

From: Dahlia Chazan, Deputy Chief, Caltrain Planning

Re: Caltrain Corridor Crossings Strategy (CCS) Project E-Update



Corridor Crossings Strategy (CCS) Description

The Corridor Crossings Strategy (CCS) has been discussed as an agency priority since 2019, when it was first identified within the Caltrain Business Plan Process. This strategy was first funded in 2019 but was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As Caltrain and other operators plan to increase rail services, Caltrain understands that a cohesive approach to grade separations or closures is needed to unlock regional mobility and safety benefits.

The Caltrain Business Plan acknowledges that grade separation projects are costly, complex, and challenging. The CCS strives to identify areas for enhancement in the current process and develop a potential strategic approach to deliver corridor-wide consensus on delivery of grade separation projects.

The CCS is divided into three phases: Initiation Phase, Phase I, and Phase II. The Initiation Phase started in July 2022 and will finish in December 2022. This phase includes the initial issue identification collected from Caltrain coordination, initial stakeholder engagement, and preliminary existing conditions gathering.

Phase I will commence in January 2023 and end in Winter 2023. Phase I takes the outputs from the Initiation Phase to provide an initial framework to organize the overall study, workplan, and stakeholder engagement process. The purpose of Phase I is to identify a shared vision for grade separations or closures along the corridor, including objectives and needs through extensive stakeholder engagement.

Phase II will begin after the completion of Phase I once a shared vision is identified. Phase II will include a corridor-wide strategy and programmatic approach for organization, project development, funding, and implementation of the vision.

Initiation Phase Completion

Initial Caltrain and external stakeholder interviews were conducted in August through November. In addition, LPMG presentations were conducted in September, October, and November to introduce the project, provide an overview of the preliminary project approach, and present the revised approach based on feedback, respectively.

The Initiation Phase is now complete, and the strategy will move into Phase I in January 2023.

Phase I Progress

Based on this initial stakeholder engagement as part of the Initiation Phase, Phase I includes the development of a user-friendly, website-based Crossings Delivery Guide to communicate roles and responsibilities, key design standards, and processes for grade crossing separation and closure projects. In addition to the Crossings Delivery Guide and in close partnership with the cities and stakeholders, the strategy will gather the ambitions of stakeholders to clarify and define a vision that balances the complex web of organizational, technical, and funding challenges that must be addressed for the vision to be realized.

Phase I consists of an approximate 12-month schedule with draft deliverables of the Crossings Delivery Guide and Strategy Vision for review in late fall 2023. Monthly technical topics will be presented to the CSCG, LPMG, and other identified stakeholder groups to facilitate the development of these deliverables.

In preparation for the start of Phase I which includes project introduction and baseline conditions, a summary of the on-going projects and associated details were sent to the City/County Staff Coordinating Group (CSCG) in lieu of a December meeting. These project summaries will be included in the January stakeholder presentations to the CSCG and LPMG to communicate the various projects and their stages as well as set a baseline for the corridor. A schedule and stakeholder engagement plan will also be presented for Phase I in January.

Lastly, the CCS website will launch in January that will house pertinent strategy information, an interactive map with current project information, and stakeholder presentations.

Public Meetings

LPMG Meeting – January 26 at 5:30 p.m.

LPMG Meeting – February 23 at 5:30 p.m.

For more details, and a full list of upcoming meetings, please visit [Caltrain.com/Meetings](https://www.caltrain.com/Meetings).



Progress Report

The presentation on the Caltrain Corridor Crossings Strategy approach presented at Caltrain's November 17, 2022, LPMG Meeting is [available here](#).