

**CalMod Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG)
Summary Meeting Notes April 27, 2023**

Summary Notes

The purpose of these notes is to capture key discussion items and actions identified for subsequent meetings.

1. Call to Order

Chair Pat Burt called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

City / County	Representative or Alternate	Present
Atherton	D. Hawkins-Manuelian /S. Miles Holland	X
Belmont	T. McCune/D. Hurt	X
Brisbane	T. O'Connell / C. Lentz	
Burlingame	E. Beach/A. Keighran	X
Gilroy	M. Blankley/ Z. Hilton	X
Menlo Park	J. Wolosin / B. Nash	X
Millbrae	G. Papan/M. Goodman	X
Mountain View	M. Abe-Koga / A. Hicks	
Morgan Hill	M. Turner/ M. Beltran	X
Palo Alto	E. Lauing / V. Veenker	X
Redwood City	E. Martinez Saballos / D. Howard	X
San Bruno	M. Salazar / R. Medina	X
San Carlos	R. Collins / P. Venkatesh	X
San Francisco	A. Sweet	
San Jose	S. Jimenez / D. Davis	
San Mateo	A. Lee/ D. Papan	X
Santa Clara	A. Becker / R. Chahal	
South San Francisco	E. Flores / J. Coleman	
Sunnyvale	A. Cisneros / R. Mehlinger	
San Francisco BOS	TBD	
San Mateo BOS	TBD	
Santa Clara BOS	TBD	
Chair	Pat Burt	X
Vice Chair	Jen Wolosin	X

VACANT SEATS: Santa Clara BOS, San Francisco BOS, San Mateo BOS

CALTRAIN STAFF: Devon Ryan, Casey Fromson, Dora Seamans

Kimley-Horn staff: Jill Gibson, Sam Zimbabwe, Gabe Keehn, Tyler Sepulveda, Darren Adrian, Whitney DiGiantommas

3. Caltrain Staff Report

Casey Fromson, Chief Communications Officer, noted the information in the packet and said Caltrain recently had a finance workshop that could be discussed after the tree assessment update presentation.

Lori Low, Acting Manager of Government and Community Affairs, and Mike Meader, Chief Safety Officer at Caltrain, provided the Caltrain corridor- wide tree assessment presentation, which included the following:

- Historic background - the railroad is over 150 years old with thousands of trees along the tracks
- 2023 storms had a community-wide impacts and included over 50 trees and dozens of branches falling on the tracks and the Caltrain's right of way (ROW), resulting in 33 hours of service delays due to damage and track closures
- An electrified system would have much greater risks and result in longer down times if anything falls on the tracks or overhead catenary system (OCS) versus the opportunity to be proactive now
- Significant safety and operations risks included injury, death, property damage, delays in Caltrain service, First Responder response (safety and access), and financial/liability risks
- Hazard management process for identification, assessment, resolution, and next steps
- Corridor-wide tree risk assessment and plan – identifying contacts for each city/county and provided Caltrain contact for non-emergency at trees@caltrain.com and 1-800-SAF-RAIL (1-877-723-7245)
- Future development of a tree risk program/manual outlining processes and procedures on risk criteria and tree maintenance that will be made available for all and refreshing Caltrain's tree maintenance contract

Casey Fromson reported on the April Caltrain Finance Workshop meeting:

- Robust discussion on Caltrain's current operating and capital finances and the fiscal cliff
- Grateful for federal government Covid recovery packages and various measures' funding
- Projected two-year runway before hitting the fiscal cliff and the need for additional resources
- United statewide effort for state funding versus the state's deficit and its many different priorities
- Work on a regional measure and consideration of the changing work environment, impacts on ridership, ways to maintain and improve ridership, and planning now to prevent the fiscal cliff

Chair Burt noted the following:

- Mike Meader is the first Chief Safety Officer for Caltrain and joined seven months ago
- Commented that these (safety) functions had been less centralized and Executive Director Michelle Bouchard made the commitment to have a higher focus on safety
- This elevated, strategic, and senior safety role is for engaging the internal workforce and the external community for different sorts of safety including trees and the tracks as well as a focus on risk management and safety in the entire organization
- Noted the 1865 photograph in the presentation showed scattered oaks and grassland along the corridor versus the current tree canopies are not a natural part of the environment
- Regarding the financial workshop, noted that there is a two-year budget and long-term financial plan and opined that the Board was impressed by the depth of the analysis and the set of alternatives that are being identified to attempt to close the budget gap (fiscal cliff)

Public Comment

Adrian Brandt welcomed Mike Meader, Safety Chief, and questioned the axis of all the cities and what Mr. Meader is charged with doing. He commented on two categories of grade crossings and safety

issues; opined that Caltrain could partner with cities to ameliorate and drive down the rate of crossing crashes and any other any delaying incidents due to traffic violations.

LPMG members' and alternate members' key comments and clarifications with staff included the following:

- A member commented on the plan to evaluate and assess the risks as opposed to being proactive in tree removal and how it is being managed and decided amongst the different jurisdictions. *Staff clarified that as Caltrain handles its ROW, they are working with the cities on their own assessments and maintenance plans, if any, for coordination and possibly combining work with Caltrain.*
- A member asked about the budget messaging to the state and region, funding, and the fiscal cliff. *Staff responded on the overall theme of survival and thriving together, the need for a robust working transit system network for all and preparing for future discussion and negotiations at the state level.*
- A member commented on the lowering prices to get more riders. *Staff responded that there will be a more fleshed out presentation to the Board and the LPMG in the future. Go Passes are an important resource, ridership has changed, and the need to think differently, and looking at the fare structure. Staff work to drive greater use with a range of programs to share with the cities for feedback/input, including special events and recruiting companies for additional or different passes.*

4. Caltrain Corridor Crossing Strategy

Jill Gibson, Sam Zimbabwe, Gabe Keehn, and Darren Adrian, Transportation Planners with Kimley Horn, provided the presentation, which included the following:

- Two paths with project delivery opportunities for a crossing delivery guide and program strategy for program vision and strategy
- Reviewed the timeline, March recap, and meeting goals/outcomes for the construction approach
- Defined the purpose of the Corridor Crossings Strategy for systematic corridor-wide approach and aligning stakeholder ambitions into balance an implementable program
- Program processes and goals, cost, funding, funding opportunities, project criteria and requirements
- May in-person work sessions (no virtual option) on May 17th at 10 am for the staff groups and May 25th at 4 pm for LPMG Members at Palo Alto City Hall for discussion on the Caltrain corridor and transportation network today, fostering a regional perspective, funding, and mobility/circulation; everyone should come or have their alternate attend to ensure the discussions are meaningful
- Detailed review of different construction approaches and delivery methods and considerations/tradeoffs, key perspectives, stakeholders, takeaways/look ahead, and stakeholder engagement

LPMG members' and alternate members' key comments and clarifications with staff included the following:

- A member commented on efficiency and economies of scale with a united, regional perspective and processes for funding opportunities rather than individual cities/jurisdictions doing it separately.
- A member commented on the community piece being dynamic with many caring a lot about trees, the need for education with many trees not native, and safety concerns.
- A member noted the Caltrain staff is working on updating the design and technical standards, which presents opportunities for more integration, cost reductions, or development of more favorable designs. *Staff noted the upcoming stakeholder engagement activities.*

5. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

Adrian Brandt commented on quiet zones; quad gates in Atherton so that it will be completely horn-free; Menlo Park and Palo Alto are in the process reviewing studies for quiet zones; raising a median for a Palo Alto crossing and creating horn-free area in Redwood City from Churchhill to Chestnut.

LPMG members' and alternate members' key comments and clarifications with staff included the following:

- A member commented on the Menlo Park quiet zone study and noted the need realistic timing for grade separations from funding and work taking perhaps 10 to 20 years. *Staff responded that they hope grade crossings can be done faster and more efficiently in the future.*
- A member commented on their city's grade crossing process with concept approval in early 2016 and seven years later being in final design with a \$150 million funding deficit and pointed out two main components being the community process/planning and funding.
- Another member noted their grade crossing process has taken about ten years for the planning and the hope for building within the next two to three years
- Reminder that the next LPMG meeting will be an in-person workshop (no remote option) at Palo Alto City Hall with parking underneath, close to the Caltrain station, and a potential reception beforehand to allow members to meet each other in person before it starts on May 25 from 4 to 6 pm. *Staff encouraged everyone to everyone and or their alternates to attend as more voices would be better, but to have at least one member attend from each city, or if none, to please ask another Councilmember to attend so that each city represented in the workshop.*

6. LPMG Member Comments/Requests

There was a request to send out the May 25 workshop meeting invite as soon as possible.

7. Next Meeting

Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 4:00 to 6 :00 pm (in person only, no remote option available) at Palo Alto City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.



Memorandum

Date: May 22, 2023

To: Caltrain Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG)

From: Devon Ryan, Government and Community Affairs Officer

Re: Caltrain E-Updates



Caltrain Hosts White House Advisor Mitch Landrieu

The transformative nature of the Electrification Project continues to get attention as we approach the launch of electrified service, even from the highest levels of government. On April 25, White House Senior Advisor and Infrastructure Coordinator Mitch Landrieu toured one of Caltrain's new electric trainsets at the San Francisco Station, and is eager to see them enter service next year. When asked about the train, Landrieu said "It's a fantastic example of what the president's vision was; to create a beautiful vehicle that goes fast, that's safe, that's electrified, that helps with the climate and provides really high paying jobs and gets people quickly and safely to where they're going." Caltrain hopes to host White House officials next year as these new trains enter electrified service.

Caltrain Electrification Construction and Service Changes Update

The Caltrain Electrification team has been working diligently to provide electrified service to riders by September 2024. We appreciate the patience and understanding of our riders and communities during this critical work. The Caltrain Electrification is a transformational project for our railway, enabling faster,

sustainable, and more frequent train service.

Weekend service shutdowns are continuing throughout 2023. On the weekends of June 10-11 and 17-18 there will be no train service between San Francisco and Millbrae. Local weekend Caltrain service will be replaced with a bus bridge between San Francisco and Millbrae stations for Caltrain dependent riders. Please note, weekdays will remain unaffected. Throughout the summer there will be several major events such as Giants home games that will proceed without being impacted as well. We encourage all passengers to plan ahead and use alternative transportation options when available.

[Learn more.](#)

Caltrain Awards Construction Contract for Mountain View Transit Center Grade Separation and Access Project

The Caltrain Board of Directors voted to award a Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) contract for the Mountain View Transit Center Grade Separation and Access Project to Stacy & Witbeck, Inc. and Myers & Sons Construction, a joint venture headquartered in Alameda, CA. The cost of the first phase, referred to as pre-construction services, is \$1.49 million. The project is funded by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Measure B Program and the City of Mountain View.

The project will improve safety and multimodal access to the transit center and Downtown Mountain View. The project is focused on the Castro Street/Moffett Boulevard/Central Expressway intersection and will close the Castro Street crossing of the railroad tracks. A shared use pathway that allows pedestrians and cyclists to pass under the tracks and Central Expressway will offer safe and easy access to residents and office workers to Mountain View's vibrant downtown.

[Learn more.](#)

Bayshore Station Overpass Rehab Project Rider Impact

Caltrain's Bayshore Station Overpass Rehabilitation Project has moved into the final phase of construction. Construction on the project began Summer of 2022 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2023. The work being done will remove and replace the coating on the station's pedestrian bridge and stairwells. This will ensure the overpass remains safe and fully functional for years to come.

From May 8, 2023, through August 2023, the pedestrian overpass, stairs, and elevator will be temporarily closed. During this period, shuttle service will be provided to transport passengers between the north and southbound platforms.

[Learn more.](#)

PUBLIC MEETINGS:

JPB Advocacy and Major Projects Committee (AMP) Meeting – May 24, 2023 at 3:30 pm

JPB Technology, Operations, Planning, and Safety (TOPS) - May meeting canceled

JPB Board Meeting – June 1, 2023 at 9:00 a.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 Caltrain Electrification progress presented at Caltrain's May 4, 2023 Board Meeting is [available here](#).



CALIFORNIA High-Speed Rail Authority

Memorandum

Date: May 25, 2023
To: Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG)
From: Boris Lipkin, Northern California Regional Director
Re: California High-Speed Rail Program Update

STATEWIDE UPDATE

Spring 2023 Construction Update

The Spring 2023 Construction Update was released on May 11th. Highlights include the completion of the Cedar Viaduct located in Fresno. The Cedar Viaduct is most notable for its double span of arches that span over State Route (SR) 99. The structure is nearly 3,700 feet long and will take high-speed trains travelling at 200-plus mph over State Route (SR) 99, North and Cedar avenues. The Construction Update also highlights the recent completion of structures in Kings and Kern counties and progress on other signature structures like the Conejo and Hanford viaducts. The video is available in English [here](#) and in Spanish [here](#).

Authority Named WTS International Employer of the Year

The California High-Speed Rail Authority received the 2023 WTS Recognition Award – Employer of the Year from Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS) International. This recognition caps a series of regional “Employer of the Year” awards for the Authority by the Sacramento, Los Angeles, and San Francisco Bay Area WTS chapters over the past 18 months. The Authority was recognized for exemplary efforts to encourage advancement of women’s careers in the transportation sector, which historically has predominantly employed men. Read more about the award [here](#) and watch our thank you video [here](#).

Spring 2023 Small Business Newsletter

The Spring 2023 edition of the Small Business Newsletter is out now! You’ll meet a company cleaning ground and water contaminants to make way for high-speed rail construction, an immigrant and female led engineering firm ensuring our structures can withstand seismic activity and a Hayward-based family-owned concrete business adopting greener practices as they help deliver the future of sustainable transportation in California. You can also find an update on the Authority's federal grant applications and learn about the newest member of the Authority's Small Business team. Read the newsletter [here](#).

New Construction Website

We’re proud to show off the newly redesigned [BuildHSR](#) website, tracking construction progress and providing practical information on road closures and construction updates. It's now easier than ever to follow HSR’s construction progress with photos and videos, quick facts, and an interactive map of the project alignment showing road closures and detour information.

RECENT & UPCOMING OUTREACH ACTIVITIES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

- [Benicia Farmers’ Market](#) – May 18, 2023, 4:00pm – 8:00pm
- [Viva CalleSJ](#) – June 11, 2023, 10:00am – 3:00pm
- [North Beach Festival](#) – June 17 & 18, 2023, 10:00am – 6:00pm