

**Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board  
Technology, Operations, Planning, and Safety (TOPS) Committee  
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070  
Minutes of August 30, 2023**

**Members Present:** Pat Burt, Rico Medina (Chair)

**Members Absent:** Shamann Walton

**Staff Present:** R. Barnard, T. Bartholomew, M. Bouchard, M. Clendennen, J. Harrison,  
M. Meader, G. Rogers, D. Seamans, M. Tseng

**1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Medina called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call**

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

**3. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda**

There were none.

**4. Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2023**

Motion/Second: Medina/Burt

Ayes: Burt, Medina

Noes: None

Absent: Walton

**5. Rail Activation Program Overview**

Michelle Bouchard, Executive Director, introduced Mark Clendennen, Director of Rail Activation and Transition, who is assisting with rail activation efforts. Graham Rogers, Business Operations Project Manager, provided the presentation that included the following:

- Goal to establish a clear process for transitioning from state of construction to dynamic new operation
- Focused on finalizing storage and security plans for the new EMUs (electric multiple units); identifying additional facilities for maintenance needs; hiring and training staff; standing up an apprenticeship program to build a pipeline of qualified workers for the new overhead catenary and traction power systems; developing train schedules for electrified service; and community outreach and marketing
- Need to establish new processes, put enhanced safety measures in place, and bring on additional expertise

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

- New and ongoing safety issues related to electrified system and impact on certain decisions for preferred grade separation alternatives
- Critical to secure additional facilities to house spare parts or new materials and have new craft on property for emergencies, provide isolation, and protection services
- Need to identify where funds are needed, the program risks, and plan for mitigation

## **6. Update on Rail Safety and Suicide Prevention Initiatives**

Mike Meader, Chief Safety Officer, provided the presentation that included the following:

- September is rail safety month and suicide prevention month
- Trespasser strikes are historically fatalities and can take up to a year to determine whether intentional or unintentional
- Assessment completed for CCTV (closed circuit television) along with the analytics for intrusion. Stepping up exploration of grant funding

Tasha Bartholomew, Media Relations Manager, provided the presentation on suicide prevention that included the following:

- Partnered with Operation Lifesaver, an international nonprofit organization, that premieres rail safety education since the 1990s
- Ramp up “Don’t Shortcut Life” program that offers free presentations to communities and open to all ages
- Formed key partnerships with mental and behavioral health professionals in counties along corridor

Mike Meader, Chief Safety Officer, continued the presentation that included the following:

- Revise existing processes and training for internal education, risk analysis of activities at CEMOF (Central Equipment & Maintenance Facility), identify the risks, and prioritize higher risks and address them prior to getting into revenue-service
- Threat and vulnerability assessment from a security perspective and accounting for all the security needs

### Public comment

Adrian Brandt appreciated the new three-digit number to text for suicide crisis and making out to right-of-way signage, Operation Lifesaver more cognizant of suicides, commented that statistics shown dramatically underrepresent number of suicides.

Director Burt appreciated the comprehensive focus on what Caltrain is doing and noted the two sets of teen suicide clusters in 2009, 2011, and another in the middle of the decade. He also mentioned that there is a lot of learning in the community about patterns, program need for some form of problem statement, expressed interest in what portion of the corridor has fencing on both sides and referenced the expanded fencing on a portion of

Palo Alto, and detection systems. Mr. Meader commented on the design, technology, and policy development needs.

## **7. Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report - 4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2023**

Robert Barnard, Deputy Chief of Design and Construction, provided the presentation, which included the following:

- During fiscal year (FY)23, the team advanced a dozen projects from design into construction and implementation
- Fundamental obligation to keep the system in a state of good repair, keep it fit for the intended use, and advancing projects, such as the Bayshore Overpass that reached substantial completion on August 17<sup>th</sup>
- The system engineering team keeps radio and communication systems in a state of good repair
- The team moved half a dozen projects from construction into closeout, as projects continue to move through their life cycle
- Part of the FY24-25 budget season, approximately \$64 million of requested projects, were deferred due to lack of funding

### Public comment

Adrian Brandt suggested two new improvements: adding better lighting at train tracks and technology similar to red light cameras that are specifically designed to attach and record those kinds of violations.

## **8. Committee Member Requests**

There were none.

## **9. Date/Time of Next Regular TOPS Committee Meeting: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 1:30 pm**

## **10. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm