

**Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
Board of Directors Meeting
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070**

Minutes of October 5, 2023

Members Present: Pat Burt, Cindy Chavez, Rico E. Medina, Ray Mueller (arrived at 9:12 am), Steve Heminger, Monique Zmuda, Devora “Dev” Davis (Vice Chair), Jeff Gee (Chair, arrived at 9:11 am)

Members Absent: Shamann Walton

Staff Present: T. Bartholomew, T. Burgwyn, M. Bouchard, C. Fromson, J. Harrison, M. Jones, M. Kumar, K. McCoy (Balfour Beatty Infrastructure), D. Seamans, B. Shaw, P. Shrestha, M. Tseng

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Consideration of requests, if any, of Directors to participate remotely due to Emergency Circumstances – There were none.

4. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda – There were none.

5. Report of the Executive Director -

- Last month was Transit Month, added an additional fourth train to Gilroy, and participated in the “All Aboard with Transit CEOs” ride-along event
- Successful San Francisco public train tour with an estimated 5,000 attendees and will have the third tour of the EMU (electric multiple units) in San Mateo in the near future
- Hosted FTA (Federal Transit Administration) Administrator Nuria Fernandez on a tour of the new EMU, electrification progress, ridership growth actions, and other projects
- Upcoming APTA (American Public Transportation Association) expo in Florida showcasing the new EMU
- Recent milestones included completing the installation of the last pole for the Overhead Contact System (OCS), upgrading our signal system, successfully testing the new electric trains at maximum track speed, and continuing to focus on communication
- Launched new operating schedule on September 25th with new fare promotions
- Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant was awarded to fund a climate change vulnerability study for resilience planning and capital investment
- Safety updates included: positive team meetings with the NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board) and FRA (Federal Railroad Administration); received commendations and recognition for efforts that included a weekly limit on roadway workers’ service hours in

charge; invited to FRA (Federal Railroad Administration) November round table in Kansas

6. Consent Calendar

- 6.a. Meeting Minutes of September 7, 2023
- 6.b. Renew Findings of an Emergency Regarding the North Channel Embankment of the San Francisquito Creek Bridge Due to Erosion Pursuant to Public Contract Code §22050*
- 6.c. Accept Unaudited Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending June 30, 2023
- 6.d. Accept Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending August 31, 2023
- 6.e. Authorize Executive Director to Enter into a Contract with Caltrans to Receive Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program Funds*
- 6.f. Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement with Transbay Joint Powers Authority for 4th and King Yard Preparation in Support of the Downtown Rail Extension* **
- 6.g. Approve BayPass Participation Agreement* **

Item 6.b. was pulled from the Consent Calendar by Director Davis to allow for staff updates.

Motion/Second: Medina/Zmuda to approve the Consent calendar Items 6.a through 6.g and excluded Item 6.b.

Ayes: Burt, Chavez, Heminger, Medina, Mueller, Zmuda, Davis, Gee

Noes: None

Absent: Walton

Public comment

Adina Levin, Friends of Caltrain and Seamless Bay Area, commented on item 6g and referred to a correspondence packet letter asking for collaboration amongst the transit agencies.

Item 6.b. Renew Findings of an Emergency Regarding the North Channel Embankment of the San Francisquito Creek Bridge Due to Erosion Pursuant to Public Contract Code §22050* was heard separately.

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

- Established a funding plan and negotiated agreements with partners and contacted the California Native American Heritage Commission to determine if there are any prehistoric sacred sites or traditional cultural properties there
- Section 404 permit outstanding from the Army Corps of Engineers and it was necessary to seek review and concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Office
- The necessary permit will not be received in time for the current work window and they will obtain the construction permit for work during the next dry season in 2024
- The team will be ready to implement a temporary bank stabilization solution if winter weather results in continued erosion and or any flooding

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

- Anticipate labor and materials escalation, but the contract remains the same
- Provide briefing on how plans are being coordinated with partners prior to the big weather event
- Work with the Army Corps of Engineers to determine and preplan for temporary measures to stabilize the bridge, such as a temporary rock embankment or dropping large bags of boulders in place to protect the embankment
- The engineering team will ensure all corridor bridges are inspected and monitored
- Have the emergency response plans ready and in place with safety being paramount
- The Board and the organization put the safety of riders and operations as number one

Public comments

Jordon Moldow expressed safety concerns on the bridge condition with the upcoming storm season and wanting contractors to prioritize the location and placing boulders.

Adina Levin expressed thanks for having an emergency response plan with detours and broader communication and favored contacting Congress members to address this issue.

Adrian Brandt appreciated elevating the issue; referenced the City of Palo Alto's creek flooding issues; and favored pre-positioning boulders and building materials.

Jeff Carter commented on being ready for any potential emergency concerning the bridge.

Vaughn Wolff commented on being required to notify the traffic managing system to communicate any issue publicly so people do not drive off the bridge.

Director Heminger encouraged staff to contact the Congressional delegation if they have not done so already.

Director Medina referenced a similar, smaller-scale issue at the City of San Bruno, where they reached out to the Congress person's office for assistance, and had the matter dealt with in a timely fashion.

Motion/Second: Chavez/Medina

Ayes: Burt, Chavez, Heminger, Medina, Mueller, Zmuda, Davis, Gee

Noes: None

Absent: Walton

7. Proclaiming the Month of October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Mehul Kumar, Chief Information and Technology Officer, provided highlights on the resolution, which included the following:

- Increasing cyber threats and debilitating attacks impacts individuals and organizations
- Education, awareness, and maintaining the cyberspace security is a shared responsibility

8. Resolution Honoring Filipino American History Month

Tasha Bartholomew, Communications Manager, provided highlights on the resolution, including the following:

- Filipinos are one of the largest Asian-American ethnic groups in the United States
- Filipinos make up 26 percent of AAPI (Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders) ridership

9. Proposed Electrified Service Plan for Fall 2024

Melissa Jones, Deputy Director of Policy Development, provided the presentation, which included the following:

- Launching service in Fall 2024 with a new, improved service plan, including more frequency with EMUs being able to accelerate and decelerate faster than diesel sets
- Current public review process, speaking with many different communities and committees, and collecting feedback for additional analysis to refine the schedule
- FFGA (Full-Funding Grant Agreements Guidance) calls for expanded service but seeking a waiver from FTA to delay further service expansion until ridership returns

Theodore Burgwyn, Director of Rail Network and Operations Planning, provided the presentation, which included the following:

- A South County connector train to serve stations on the non-electrified Gilroy segment
- Off-peak service will follow the same pattern as peak-hour local service, which will provide 30-minute headways to all stations all day long
- Express A service will be the fastest option from San Jose and San Francisco
- Continue outreach, make further refinements for the future final service plan proposal that will include weekday and weekend service plans and cost estimates

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

- Greater sense of urgency for transfer coordination with BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit); December's follow up item should have updated information concerning BART
- Concerns with Express B being about 10 minutes more than the current baby bullet from San Jose to San Francisco
- Need to recognize whistle mic noise impacts and elevate consideration of quiet zones

Public comments

Jeff Carter appreciated addressing weekends; the public was promised better service but receiving the same service; and running EMUs and diesel to San Jose without transferring.

Adina Levin, Friends of Caltrain and Seamless Bay Area, commented on the region working on a regional measure looking at potential state operating support for transit over time.

Jordan Moldow commented on the lack of increased service to stations with highest populations, jobs, or recreational destinations and favored increasing service.

Adrian Brandt commented on running half hour service on weekends; having all 7-car train sets; offer off-peak service with shorter train sets as cost effective; and having quiet zones.

Sara Greenwald, member of 350 Bay Area Transportation Committee, favored considering half-hour service for off-peak and to prioritize electric service to be all day, all week.

Dylan Finch, Redwood City resident, advocated for more trains especially with electric service; tighter transfer with BART to at 18 – 20 minutes; and proposed timetable is ambitious and may be affected by longer dwell times.

Giuliano Carlini commented on being thrilled with the new train service and level of service but was previously told six trains an hour at every station and suggested service at all times during the day, and not just during the commute and off-peak hours.

Chair Gee confirmed four trains at peak times and two during off-peak, consistent with electrified service, and every train will stop at the Millbrae station.

10. Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project (PCEP) Monthly Progress Report

Pranaya Shrestha, CalMod Chief Officer, provided the presentation that included the following information:

- BBI (Balfour Beatty Infrastructure) shared risk pool is \$50 million, and the remainder at the end of the project is shared; the remaining amount is approximately \$67 million with anticipated reduction as risks are addressed
- Overhead Contact System (OCS) wiring completed and working on ways to prevent theft of the impedance bond cables

Casey Fromson, Chief Communications Officer, provided the presentation that included the following information:

- Schedule impacts with October shutdowns and other events, such as Fleet Week, and impacts to be light for the November schedule, December being worked on, and expected and little impacts in 2024
- Second public train event in San Francisco with thousands of attendees, future San Mateo County event early next year; Caltrain's 106th anniversary will be in January

Keith McCoy, Project Director for Balfour Beatty Infrastructure, Inc, provided a presentation, which included the following:

- OCS production is at the end of wire pulling, and the only wire pull left is at Guadalupe, which happens at the end of this month

Public comments

Adina Levin, Friends of Caltrain and Seamless Bay Area, expressed thanks for the proactive schedule change communications and for real time data feed on schedule changes.

Adrian Brandt commented on impedance bonds theft even when in revenue service and how the bonds are critical to track circuits that control grade crossings and signals.

Doug DeLong expressed congratulations for getting supply station number one energized and noted the theft of the cabling interferes with the operation of the signal system and the grounding of the track structure.

Paul Wendt, Belmont, expressed hope for a solution to impedance bonds theft.

11. Reports

11.a. Report of the Citizens Advisory Committee

Brian Shaw, Chair, provided an update on CAC discussions, which included the following:

- Policy for scooters on trains – more scooters seen and occupying bike cars
- Need better wayfinding at Millbrae station and problem with mobile app's dark mode
- Safety and suicide prevention presentation; promote the three-digit text number and improve corridor signage; create a map showing incidents where suicides occurred
- Supported enforcement blitz at Broadway and Whipple
- The new proposed electrification schedule is inconsistent with prior communications since the schedule is running the same number of trains stopping at more stations and being a little faster versus having more trains running
- Suggested conversation with State about not meeting expansion requirements
- Received excessive downed gate time inquiries via social media
- Fare enforcement is not effective as a large number of riders are not getting cited
- October amendment to bylaws and transit-oriented development and Brown Act training in November

11.b. Report of the Chair

Chair Gee thanked Casey Fromson and her team for the block party in San Francisco, with over 4,500 attendees. He noted receipt of the Triennial FTA (Federal Transit Administration) report and there was a ribbon-cutting for the fourth train in Gilroy.

11.c. Report of the Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG)

Chair Burt noted there was presentation on the Update on Rail Safety and Suicide Prevention Initiatives.

11.d. Report of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA)

Chair Gee reported on action needed to be able to receive a TIRCP (Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program) grant and upcoming action for the October meeting to consider releasing the RFQ (request for quotation) for the civil and tunnel work for the Portal (the San Francisco downtown extension project).

12. Correspondence – available 24/7 online.

13. Board Member Requests

Director Zmuda requested to adjourn the meeting in honor of Senator Dianne Feinstein.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned in honor and memory of Senator Dianne Feinstein at 11:07 am.