

**Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
Advocacy and Major Projects (AMP) Committee
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070
Minutes of December 18, 2024**

Members Present: Margaret Abe-Koga (arrived at 3:49 pm), Jeff Gee, Steve Heminger (Chair)

Staff Present: J. Baker, M. Bouchard, D. Chazan, C. Fromson, J. Harrison, L. Ko, D. Ryan, S. Sargent, M. Tseng, K. Uchida

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Safety Briefing

Chair Heminger called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and delivered the safety briefing.

2. Roll Call

Acting District Secretary Margaret Tseng called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

3. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda - Adrian Brandt commented on the frequency of driver safety issues due to dimly lit train crossings at night.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 20, 2024

Motion/Second: Gee/Heminger

Ayes: Gee, Heminger

Noes: None

Absent: Abe-Koga

5. Authorize the Executive Director to Sign the Equity in Infrastructure Project Pledge

Sam Sargent, Director Strategy and Policy, provided the presentation that included the following:

- Increase awarded contracts to Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE)
- Streamline process to collect and share data from HUBs and DBEs
- No conflict with federal, state, and local contracting program requirements
- Equity in Infrastructure Project aligns with equity and inclusion goals

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

- Program to grow awareness of available contract work to address shallow bid pool
- Greater participation needed from other local agencies to help growth
- Smaller firms do not have bandwidth to finance projects before getting paid
 - Existing resolution does not include figures or dates associated to the target as there is variance between agencies and location

Motion/Second: Gee/Heminger

Ayes: Gee, Heminger

Noes: None

Absent: Abe-Koga

6. Authorize the Executive Director to Execute The Portal Project Implementation Memorandum of Understanding

Dahlia Chazan, Chief Rail Planning, provided the presentation that included the following:

- Final recommendations and approvals by Integrated Program Management Team (IPMT), Executive Working Group (EWG), and Partner Agencies
- Multi-agency implementation of program with established roles and responsibilities but does not imply any funding or payment agreements
- Caltrain-Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) and multi-agency agreements additionally put in place for usage and administrative structures
- Each agency to approve at each stage of five-part proposal: Procurement and Enabling Program, Pre-Construction, Construction, Testing and Commissioning, and Entry Into Service
- Milestones marked with a targeted action rather than a date of completion
- Governing bodies containing agency representatives meet on a cadence based on scope of project

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

- Disagreement amongst agencies settled through making recommendations to the TJPA Board of Directors who ultimately approve matters, with respective agencies notified if there is direct involvement.

Motion/Second: Gee/Abe-Koga

Ayes: Abe-Koga, Gee, Heminger

Noes: None

7. Receive Update on the Link21 Program

Kansai Uchida, Director Systemwide Planning and Policy, provided the presentation that included the following:

- Strain on Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) capacity and the necessity for intercity rail connection prompted the recommendation for selecting technology
- Program led by BART but identified need for direct Caltrain involvement in later phases
- Standard gauge technology recommended by Link21 staff as there is compatibility with most rail systems except for BART
- Possible impacts on right-of-way but broaden service provided by Caltrain

- Recommendation for stakeholder, Boards, and Commissions to heavily engage and participate in decision-making process for Link21 work

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

- Importance of fully conceptualizing before implantation of project
- Governance body California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) will need to determine the level of Caltrain's involvement
- Yet to understand BART's connectivity with the linking train system, supplementary rather than disintegration of the current tube
- Caltrain participation depends on funding and prioritization of other projects
- Link21 is placed under the programmatic (planning and development) category of Plan Bay Area 2050

Public comment

Adrian Brandt commented on standard gauge technology benefits to expand service to other parts of California.

8. Receive State and Federal Legislative Update

Casey Fromson, Chief of Staff, Jason Baker, Director of Government and Communication Affairs, and Devon Ryan, Government Affairs Officer, provided the presentation that included the following:

- Stopgap spending bill put in place to keep government funded to March 14, 2025
- Speaker Mike Johnson (Speaker candidate) and elected Representative Steve Scalise (Majority Leader) appointed by House Republicans
- Appointment of Representative Sam Graves for Chair of House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee as well as Former Congressman Sean Duffy for Secretary of Transportation
- Twenty five percent tariff to affect prices and the same materials and equipment purchased by private and public entities
- Federal update- Democrats maintained supermajority with no changes in the Senate or Assembly leadership
- Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to poll two tax scenarios in January, one of which will be applied to four counties (Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, and San Mateo, optional for Santa Clara County)

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

- Polling of MTC tax scenarios used for determining a regional solution
- Alternative tax scenarios also to be provided to draft additional possible solutions
- Same polling firms used but different sample population to avoid bias

9. Committee Member Requests - There were none.

10. Date/Time of Next Regular AMP Committee Meeting: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 3:30 pm.

11. Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at 4:31 pm.