

**CalMod Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG)
Summary Meeting Notes for October 22, 2020**

Summary Notes

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

| City / County | Representative or Alternate | Present |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Atherton | C. Wiest | |
| Belmont | T. McCune | X |
| Brisbane | T. O'Connell | X |
| Burlingame | E. Beach | X |
| Gilroy | C. Tucker | X |
| Menlo Park | B. Nash | X |
| Millbrae | R. Holober | |
| Mountain View | J. McAlister | |
| Morgan Hill | R. Constantine | X |
| Palo Alto | L. Kou | X |
| Redwood City | S. Masur | |
| San Bruno | M. Salazar | X |
| San Carlos | R. Collins | X |
| San Francisco | VACANT | |
| San Jose | S. Jimenez | |
| San Mateo | A. Lee | |
| Santa Clara | K. Watanabe | X |
| South San Francisco | K. Matsumoto | X |
| Sunnyvale | N. Smith | X |
| San Francisco BOS | TBD | |
| San Mateo BOS | TBD | |
| Santa Clara BOS | TBD | |
| Chair | Jeannie Bruins | |
| Vice Chair | E. Beach | X |

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

CALTRAIN STAFF: Casey Fromson, Sebastian Petty, Ryan McCauley

HIGH-SPEED RAIL STAFF: Boris Lipkin, Morgan Galli, Meg Cederoth, Jorge Rios, Rebecca Fleischer

1. Call to Order

Acting Chair Ron Collins called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

2. Staff Report

Casey Fromson, Director of Government and Community Affairs for Caltrain, provided an update that the Caltrain Board of Directors passed of a second quarter budget at their October 1 meeting. The agency continues to monitor any potential federal funding measures as well as Measure RR. Ridership remains steady at approximately six percent.

3. California High-Speed Rail Update

Boris Lipkin, Northern California Regional Director for California High-Speed Rail, provided an overview of the project and the current status. Meg Cederoth, Director of Planning and Sustainability, provided a synopsis of the 2020 Sustainability Report. Jorge Rios, with Deutsche Bahn, presented on the work being done on Passenger Experience. Morgan Galli, Northern California Regional Stakeholder Manager, updated members on the upcoming Community Working Group meetings.

LPMG members' key comments regarding the 2020 Sustainability Report:

- A member thanked staff for the trees in South San Francisco that were planted by High-Speed Rail.
- A member asked for HSR staff to explain the number referenced for disadvantaged communities and how it was determined. *(HSR staff answered the agency did an overlay of direct construction investment and nearly \$2.4 billion took place within disadvantaged communities as defined by CalEnviroScreen. Staff also noted that 40% of the paychecks issued, were to zip codes within a disadvantaged community.)*
- A member asked if there are any plans to build trees south of San Jose along the corridor that Union Pacific owns. *(HSR staff answered that they are still looking at how to do tree planting along the corridor and that the agency is looking for more opportunities to work with cities.)*

LPMG members' key comments regarding the Passenger Experience Research:

- A member noted that station beautification means different things to smaller cities along the corridor and that they hope all stations will be worked on with and have the same commitment to detail as the larger stations in bigger cities. *(Staff thanked the member for their comment and noted that each station will be looked at independently and the layout and amenities will vary.)*

Public Comments:

- A member of the public commented that they do not think the High-Speed Rail Authority should be in charge of the High-Speed train between San Jose and Gilroy. They also believe the trains should be compatible with current Caltrain platforms. The member of the public also asked if the Authority is considering double decker high-speed trains. *(HSR staff answered that at this point in time, the early train operator is providing recommendations and have not discarded any possibilities.)*
- A member of the public noted that a presentation on Constant Warning Time was not on the agenda and reminded members that they had asked for a presentation in June. They are concerned that all cities will be impacted and they need to be fully informed on the change.

LPMG members' final questions and comments.

- A member asked what sort of integrations there would be between Caltrain and High-Speed Rail trains, specifically the platform heights. *(HSR staff answered that most international High-Speed Trains use high-level platforms.)*
- A member asked when the group would hear about the Constant Warning Time. *(Caltrain staff answered they plan to present next month.)*

4. Caltrain Business Plan: Service Planning

Sebastian Petty, Caltrain Deputy Chief of Planning, presented on the Draft Equity, Connectivity, Recovery, and Growth Policy Framework and the Service Planning work.

LPMG members' key comments and questions:

- A member asked if the locomotive refurbishments are on schedule. *(Caltrain staff answered that they believe so, but would get conformation and report back.)*
- A member thanked staff for the outreach on the Equity Study and complemented the thoroughness and transparency.
- Another member wanted to thank staff for the high quality of the presentations for the LPMG.

Public Comments:

- A member of the public commented that they believe the high-income riders will not return to Caltrain unless the service is competitive with driving.
- A member of the public pointed out that the current schedule has excessive padding. They noted that Caltrain may have a low ridership return numbers because of the nature of jobs around the corridor and that less essential riders use Caltrain as opposed to other systems like BART.

5. Caltrain Electrification Project: Virtual Reality Tour

Ryan McCauley, Caltrain Community Affairs Specialist, presented on the construction progress for the electrification project. Casey Fromson, Director of Government and Community Affairs for Caltrain, provided the members with a demonstration of the Virtual Reality Experience for the new electric trains.

LPMG members' key comments and questions:

- A member asked what the total number of foundations completed was for October. *(Caltrain staff answered that they did not have the specific number, but could follow up with the member directly.)*
- A member noted their excitement over the VR experience and stated the trains reminded them of the European train to Disneyland Paris. The member also asked if the trains would have hand sanitizer stations or any other modifications in light of COVID. *(Caltrain staff answered that there haven't been modifications to add hand sanitizer, but the current trains do have enhanced cleaning protocols. Staff also noted that Caltrain is also part of the regional Healthy Transit Plan.)*
- A member noted that the existing seats on Caltrain are uncomfortable for people with back problems and asked if there are samples riders could sit in, before the trains are delivered. *(Caltrain staff answered that as part of the original outreach campaign, staff brought out different models of seats and had riders vote on which one was their favorite. These models are available if folks want to make an appointment and test them.)* Another member followed-up

asking the new seats are substantially different from the current seats. *(Caltrain staff answered that there are differences, but the seat itself may not be a dramatic difference. What will feel dramatically different is the overall look and feel of the train.)*

Public Comments:

- A member of the public commented that poles are missing in the northern section of the corridor and critical poles in Section 4. They also commented that they wished there were non-ADA compliant restrooms on the new cars that would have a smaller footprint on the train. They also noted that the trains in Paris were manufactured by Bombardier, but they did not bid on the Caltrain contract.

6. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

- A member of the public stated that they know what the constant warning time solution is, but is too busy writing to the Board about how they think electrification will fail.

7. LPMG Member Comments/Requests

- HSR Related Letters From Cities
- Constant Warning Time Presentation

Casey Fromson let the members know that the High-Speed Rail letters from cities along the corridor would be sent out to the group in the next week or so and that the plan is for the group to receive the Constant Warning Time presentation at the November 2020 meeting.

8. Next Meeting

Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.