

**Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) Summary  
Meeting of March 7, 2024**

**Swearing in of VTA (Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority) Appointed Representative** – Margaret Abe-Koga was sworn into office.

**Closed Sessions:** The Board met on (1) pending litigation [Williams v. Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, San Mateo County Superior Court, Case No. 22-CIV-03763] and (2) Conference with Legal Counsel Anticipated Litigation: Significant exposure to litigation pursuant with no reportable actions.

**Report of the Executive Director** - Michelle Bouchard, Executive Director, provided updates, which included the following:

- Welcomed Director Abe-Koga and expressed appreciation, and thanked Director Chavez for her service and dedication to the railroad
- Introduced and acknowledged Transit America, Inc. (TASI) crew: Gabe Chavez Jr., Fabian Alcala, and Dominique Jolivet, for their involvement during the February 28<sup>th</sup> incident
- March 18<sup>th</sup> National Transit Employee Appreciation Day - hosting events throughout the month at San Francisco and Diridon Stations for rider appreciation, featuring conductors and crew members on social media, and asking customers to submit positive experience
- Nuria Fernandez announced retirement from FTA (Federal Transit Administration), previously VTA GM/CEO (General Manager/Chief Executive Officer); acknowledged all of the great work she has done
- National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) released the final report on the San Bruno incident on March 10, 2022. Safety culture and new safety process procedures and tools were implemented in order to mitigate some of the causes. The report was initially scheduled to be heard by its board, but it was removed, and released a short report on their website
- Recent rains resulted in an additional number of trees on right-of-way (ROW) - working with local communities on a plan to deal with trees in the ROW and with communities to identify tree hazards
- Received two American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Add Wheel Awards for compelling communication campaigns and efforts: for collaborating with a local artist who created posters for the public events.
- May 11<sup>th</sup> event in San Carlos to highlight the EMU (electric multiple unit) and to continue to celebrate 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary

- MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) work on Regional measure and at State level is slated to flow through Senator Weiner's SB (State Bill) 925 bill. The Board adopted some principles to guide recommendations for language, which included ensuring Caltrain receives operating funding support when available, receive or be eligible for capital funding, support efforts that will improve the customer experience and support performance and accountability metrics, and stating that the consolidation of with another agency is not an option without Board approval.
- Community funded projects earmarked in the House Appropriations Bill and have a combined \$1 million that would go towards implementing new safety crossing enhancement projects in several cities along the corridor

**JPB Board of Directors Received and Approved the Following Items:**

- Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2024
- Accept Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending January 31, 2024
- 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\*
- Award of Contract for Central Control Facility (CCF) Building Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Installation Project\*
- Adoption of the California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act
- Award of Contract for Construction Manager General Contractor Services for the Broadway Grade Separation Project\*
- Authorize Executive Director to Amend Contract with Turbo Data Systems, Inc. for Fare Evasion Citation Processing Services and Mobile Fare Enforcement Devices to Increase by \$500,100 to \$1,096,500\*
- Amendment #2 to the Memorandum of Agreement with Transbay Joint Powers Authority for 4th and King Yard Preparation in Support of the Downtown Rail Extension\* \*\*
- Approval of Update to Public Comment Process Policy for Fares and Major Service Changes

**Resolution Honoring International Women's History Month** – Tasha Bartholomew, Media Relations Manager, provided highlights on the resolution, which included the following:

- Hosting a series of workshops on March 22<sup>nd</sup> with a keynote speaker followed by internal subject matters to discuss career, relevant skill sets, and tips and tricks for interviewing
- Special employee spotlight feature on various social media platforms
- Leading efforts for women in transportation employee resource groups (ERG) to promote development and education throughout the agency by undertaking internal and external activities to attract, retain, empower, inform, inspire, and support female employees

**Authorize Amendment to On-Call Transportation Planning and Consultant Support Services Contract\***

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

- Summarized contract capacity with 70 work directives issues, leaving limited capacity
- Provided examples of how planning contracts used
- Significant competition for quality staff amongst the consultant firms

- Proposed contract terms for two options prior to the original plan and added \$7.5 million
- Begun the work to procure a new transportation planning on-call with the intent to have a contract in place before proposed new capacity is utilized

Director Zmuda reported that the Finance Committee reviewed items and talked to staff about their ability to do some work in-house and attract the correct type of positions, as well as discussion on evaluating, supervising, and approving contractors' work to completion.

Staff provided further clarification in response to Chair Davis's comments and questions that included the following:

- The likelihood that some of the work can be brought in-house and the number of current vacancies
- An estimated 30 percent of contract amount are seconded staff due to specialized work

### **Adopt Caltrain Energy Policy**

Amelia Timbers, Environmental Compliance Manager, provided the presentation that included the following:

- Energy becomes a significant expense once electrified. Set forth principles to help guide staff on energy-related matters and provide transparency to the public
- Policy is a foundation where consultants will seek procurement, such as products to purchase from which vendors and at what price
- Policy includes generation and consumption, but does not cover transmission and distribution
- Energy policy built by six objectives. The first objective is to have greatest weight; primary goal is to get the most renewable energy, and second-best choice is carbon-free energy
- Maximize revenue from LCFS (low carbon fuel standard). Consider cost-effective options
- Utilities offer a range of programs to try to increase energy efficiency. Focused on programs that provide financial return
- Proactively working on resilience and seeking opportunities to make the system more resilient by pursuing the Caltrain climate vulnerability study

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

- Update on the energy procurement strategy provided in the reading file
- Talking to the CCAs (Community Choice Aggregation) that are relevant to San Jose and South San Francisco
- Municipality utilities cannot be utilized
- Concerned with ranking renewable energy as first and carbon-free as second in priorities, not cost-effective, or have the lowest GHG (greenhouse gases) emissions
- Chair Davis, Director Burt, and Director Mueller to work with staff on prospective modifications of policy

**Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project (PCEP) Monthly Progress Report** - Pranaya Shrestha, CalMod Chief Officer, provided the presentation that included the following:

- OCS (overhead catenary system) construction completed, including San Francisco station, and drawdown of shared risk pool with an overall remaining amount of \$34.26 million
- Impedance bond theft still remains a challenge
- Three bus bridging left and getting the communication out. Noted impact to San Francisco Giants games and some impacts due to longer runs. Cities may see testing at night
- May 11<sup>th</sup> - National Train Day combined with electric train tour and 160<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. Smaller events planned with key stakeholders to ensure everyone knows about the benefits coming this year
- Storm damage impacted the project by about 30 more days. Substantial completion was scheduled for the end of March, but now towards the end of April
- Focused areas continue to be safety, with no incidents in January and February
- Traction power stations (PS) 2 and PS 1 have come online. PS 3 and PS 4 are to be brought online next week
- 16,000 total punch list items with 10,000 completed

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- Process in the revised schedule without impacting September date
- Process and collaborations with jurisdictions on tree damages
- Contract warranty remains during period of two years
- Bringing overhead catenary team onboard to observe BBI (Balfour Beatty, Inc.). Need to develop a strike team approach

**Receive Update on Customer Experience and Retention Strategy** – Deferred to next month

**Monthly Reports were provided on the following items:**

- Report of the Citizens Advisory Committee – Brian Shaw, Chair, provided an update on CAC discussions, which included the following:
  - Public request for platform screens at Diridon Station to be repaired
  - Received update on the Mini High project. Requested illustrative photographs of the platforms; report on the Customer Experience Task Force and focused on the VMS (visual messaging sign) signage improvements, content, and message prioritization
  - Importance of consistent on-time train service, station cleanliness, safety, seating, and access to restrooms
  - Revamp Go Pass program incentives for corridor employers; suggested improvements on wayfinding, distance-based fares, customer seating at stations, and accessibility to restrooms
  - Update on fare enforcement and collection options, progress on tree removal at the Menlo Park Station, and impact of proposed grade separation projects on vehicle incursions and accidents

- Requested High-Speed Rail update and continued updates on Caltrain's All Station Access Grant program; slated in March to have a strategic financial plan update, Measure RR annual audit, and an electrification update
- Report of the Chair – Chair Davis reported on a February trip with the Executive Director to Denver, Colorado, to visit Regional Transportation District (RTD). They toured the maintenance facility and discussed the transition from capital project to operating, growing the pipeline for employees, and developing relationships with both high and middle schools.
- Resolution of Appreciation for Cindy Chavez – Chair Davis noted that Director Chavez was on the Board for five years and participated fully in Board workings, instrumental in governance discussions, the project labor agreement, and appreciated the time that she spent on the Board and the work that she put into helping strengthen the Board.
- Report of the Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG) – Chair Burt reported that the February meeting had two themes: the city specific fact sheets for electrification and service schedules pushed out to cities so they can take the lead role sharing service plans. He spoke on the need to have cities fully partner and help support using new city partnership tool, drive and facilitate adoption of Go Passes and ridership, and the need to have different model for driving ridership. For March, there will be an upcoming workshop on corridor-wide crossing strategy in Redwood City.