

Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) Summary
Meeting of September 5, 2024

Closed Sessions:

- Conference with Real Property Negotiator (Gov. Code § 54956.8) - Property: 2529 Broadway Redwood City, CA. General Counsel James Harrison reported that the Board considered the proposed terms with Minkoff Group and read aloud the proposed resolution with terms attached and with one additional term that both parties must agree to preserve the functionality of the transit center for bus layover and turnaround and for transit riders, before any development may proceed.
- Conference with Real Property Negotiator (Gov. Code § 54956.8) for the following properties: Property: 375 Beale Street, San Francisco, CA; 166 N. Rollins Road, Millbrae, CA; 153 Townsend Street, San Francisco, CA; 305 Main Street, Redwood City, CA and Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Gov. Code § 54957(b)(1)) Title: Executive Director. There were no reportable actions.

Report of the Executive Director - Michelle Bouchard, Executive Director, provided a report which included the following:

- Rider responses to soft launch of the electric trains
- Local and National press coverage of the electric fleet, the project will be featured at the APTA (American Public Transportation Association) Conference in Anaheim, and will be discussed at the Commuter Rail Coalition
- Electric Train Launch Parties on September 21 and 22 at every city along the corridor
- Caltrain funding challenges and opportunities will return to the Board in November and December during the Budget and Deficit Update

JPB Board of Directors Received and Approved the Following Items:

- Meeting Minutes of August 1, 2024
- Accept Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending July 31, 2024
- Disposition of 58 Gallery Cars and 18 Diesel Locomotives
- Authorize Execution of Contracts and Amendments for Information Technology Hardware, Software, Licenses, Maintenance Services and Professional Services, and Technology-Related Products and Services, through Piggyback Contracts and Cooperative Purchasing Programs
- Adopt the updated Caltrain Station Access Policy
- Authorize Increase in Contract Change Order Authority for Mini-high Platform Project

Proclamation Declaring September Railroad Safety & Suicide Prevention Month

Tasha Bartholomew, Communications Manager, provided the presentation, which included the following:

- Caltrain partners with other agencies nationwide
- Caltrain will be posting suicide prevention resources online and on social media platforms

- Participate with transit police on rail safety blitz to educate drivers
- Provide suicide prevention training to employees with Santa Clara County Department

Taylor Coutts, StarVista Crisis Service Center, spoke on and received the Proclamation.

Adopt Policy Regarding Trees on or Adjacent to the Caltrain Right of Way

James Harrison, General Counsel, provided the presentation, which included the following:

- Caltrain right-of-way tree risk assessment will be completed on a quarterly basis
- Transit America Services, Inc. (TASI) has an on-call tree removal contractor to address fallen trees quickly
- Review of heatmap of trees that pose the most significant risk
- Caltrain has the authority to assess and mitigate the risk of trees on Caltrain property
- Staff is engaging with municipalities to coordinate with municipalities arborists on tree removal. Thus far, staff has met with 10 of 18 municipalities and plans to complete meetings by the end of Summer
- Communications staff is working on public education
- Goal to protect public, public safety, damage to Caltrain assets, and reduce liability
- Explained the process for tree removal on private property
- Explained budget impact and additional cost to address trees on private properties. Proposing \$250,000 for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) to pay for cost of pruning or removing trees on private property and replanting trees. Reevaluate annual allocation based on data received in FY25

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

- Provide progress and tree removal updates annually
- Addressing cost barriers of private property owners
- Compliance with local tree policies

State and Federal Legislative Update

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

- Current deficit of \$77 million per year
- Societal changes to riders with less commuters
- Previously relied on fare budget, which was \$103 million in 2023 and currently \$43 million in 2024
- No contributions from member agencies were received
- Energy costs have increased 65 percent from initial ground breaking
- Assumptions on current deficit projections including service levels, ridership growth, energy costs, low carbon fuel source, traction power system maintenance, and increasing insurance costs
- San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties member agency contributions are based on deficit averages

- Current MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) Select Committee scenarios to fund transit agencies overview addressing Caltrain funding and the farebox shortfall; funding mechanism via sales tax, parcel tax, or payroll tax; and the Caltrain deficit coverage based on the two scenarios would be 91 percent or 43 percent
- Scenario One (Core Transit Framework) involves four counties Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, and San Mateo, with opt-ins for five counties, using a sales tax that would cover 91 percent of Caltrain deficit
- Scenario Two (Go Big Framework) involves nine counties using parcel tax or payroll tax, which would cover 43 percent of Caltrain deficit
- Caltrain only measure discussion of sales tax, parcel tax, mixture of taxes, or sales tax and county member contributions in the three counties
- October 21st, the MTC Executive Committee will vote to approve framework for a transportation measure and poll after the November elections because of impacts the elections may have
- Regardless of the MTC scenario, it does not address the deficit and the high fixed costs for transit

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

- Creation of a contingency plan of Caltrain funding measure to fully fund Caltrain on its own
- Concerns for first and second scenarios
- Consider, review, and address revenue and expenditures including the high fixed costs
- Regional measures that cover nine counties need to cover all needs and not partial. Challenge with regional effort is not every county carries its own weight and addressing the trade-offs
- Consider what is the state investment and what is the state's intent of their commitment if a regional measure is passed
- Need to provide taxpayers and users with a coordinated system and consolidation
- Possibility of member contributions, Measure RR and percentages by county

Update Regarding Implementation of JPB Governance MOU

Deferred to the next regular scheduled Board of Directors meeting.

PCEP (Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project) Monthly Progress Report – Pranaya Shrestha, CalMOD Chief Officer; Casey Fromson, Chief of Staff; and Keith McCoy, Project Director, Balfour Beatty Infrastructure, Inc (BBI), provided the presentation that included the following information:

- Project timeline, upcoming celebration on September 21st and train sets delivery schedule
- Outstanding top risks including impedance bonds cables thefts, closeout of open traction power system items, closeout of punchlist items. Final safety acceptance started and will be completed in next few days
- Updated service schedule is posted for the public
- Electric Train Launch Party, city celebrations at stations, and free fares during the weekend of September 21st and 22nd

- Punchlist completion/acceptance is at 97.5 percent, on track to complete final assessment by September 21st and reviewed the remaining punch list items

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

- Disposition of fund sources, contingency, incentive programs, and agreement

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:
 - CAC members serve on the Measure RR Oversight Committee
 - Observations by members of echoing by PA (public address) system
 - Confusion about bike capacity of the new trains
 - Update on schedule coordination with BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit)
- Report of the Chair – Chair Davis
 - Updated service schedule for electric services
 - As part of Railroad Safety Month, start each meeting with a safety brief starting September 2024
 - Encouraged attendance at Electric Launch Party Celebration
- Proclamation of Appreciation for Carl Guardino – Chair Davis noted Mr. Guardino being a huge proponent of Caltrain, worked hard on Measure RR, and a supporter of electrification.
- Report of the Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG) – Chair Burt reported receiving a Presentation on Station Access Policy, Need for station activation, station Wi-Fi linked to onboard wifi for seamless transition, and Bay Pass Pilot

Board Member Requests:

Director Mueller stated that a memo was shared, Supplemental Reading #1, for requests for information or asking academic and Artificial Intelligence (AI) companies about the use of AI systems used to identify individuals on tracks. Requested agenda item at a future Board Meeting to direct staff to go out for Request for Information