

**Caltrain Centralized Equipment Maintenance and Operations Facility (CEMOF)  
Monitoring Committee  
San Jose City Hall, 200 E. Santa Clara, 18th Floor, San Jose, CA  
January 25, 2017  
Minutes**

**Members Present:** Joanne Buckley (Arena – At Large), Nahom Debessay (JPB), Jos Peijnenburg (Garden Alameda), Clay Reigel (College Park), Mike Riepe (Shasta-Hanchett Park)

**Members Absent:** Councilmember Devora ‘Dev’ Davis (San Jose City Council), Brent Pearce (VTA)

**Staff Present:** N. Debessay, L. Low, B. Tietjen

Chair Jos Peijnenburg called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

**Election of Officers**

Mike Riepe nominated Jos Peijnenburg for chair.

Motion/Second: Riepe/Reigel

Ayes: Buckley, Debessay, Peijnenburg, Reigel, Riepe

Absent: Pearce

Mr. Reigel nominated Clay Reigel for vice chair.

Motion/Second: Peijnenburg /Riepe

Ayes: Buckley, Debessay, Peijnenburg, Reigel, Riepe

Absent: Pearce

Chair Peijnenburg asked for an update on the committee roster. Mr. Tietjen said Nahom Debessay, Brent Pearce and Chair Peijnenburg's terms expire in March 2018. Mr. Tietjen said Councilmember Devora ‘Dev’ Davis' term expire in March 2019. Mr. Tietjen said Vice Chair Reigel, Mr. Riepe and Joanne Buckley's terms expire March 2017.

**Approval of Minutes – October 26, 2016**

Joanne Buckley asked that her vote be marked as ‘abstain’ for the approval of the July 27, 2016 minutes.

Motion/Second: Riepe/ Reigel

Ayes: Buckley, Debessay, Peijnenburg, Reigel, Riepe

Absent: Davis, Pearce

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Staff Report**

None.

### **Chairperson's Report**

None.

### **Committee Report**

Vice Chair Reigel said he has heard complaints from a few members of College Park about CEMOF related noise.

### **New Business**

#### CalMod Update

Lori Low, Public Affairs Specialist, provided an update on the CalMod Program.

Ms. Low reported:

- Caltrain issued a Limited Notice to Proceed in September 2016
- Both contractors have been doing design work
- Some pre-construction activities were completed
- Caltrain cannot move forward until all the funding is secured

Chair Peijnenburg asked if there are design updates that related to the CEMOF facility as part of the project. Ms. Low said the contractor is not that far along in the design at this point and that we would return to the committee once design progresses.

Ms. Buckley asked if the designs are open to modifications if they come in at a later date.

Mr. Riepe asked if those designs will go through an environmental process. Mr. Riepe also asked if the committee would have a look at the plans when there is something to show.

Mr. Tietjen said he would research the question about environmental review. Mr. Tietjen said that the CalMod Update would be a standing item for the committee going forward.

#### Hotline Update

Chair Peijnenburg said there was one complaint on the morning of Christmas Eve from a resident on Villa Avenue. Chair Peijnenburg read the complaint aloud. Mr. Tietjen read the response aloud.

Mr. Riepe said the specific Shared Objectives should be referenced in the responses.

Vice Chair Reigel said he has received complaints over the last few days about noise late at night.

Mr. Riepe said people also continue to have a problem with the bells ringing. Mr. Riepe said the sound engineers said the sound could be worse in the winter for environmental factors.

Mr. Tietjen said there are more complaints about noise in the winter throughout the corridor.

Mr. Riepe said that brings up the question about auditing activities at the facility.

### **Old Business**

#### Noise Monitoring

Mr. Debessay said he spoke with the Director of Rail Operations about noise monitoring at the facility. Mr. Debessay said they have been given the green light about a temporary noise monitoring protocol. Mr. Debessay said they were currently preparing a procedure for monitoring and they plan to do an assessment by the end of February.

Chair Peijnenburg said it was a good breakthrough for the committee. Mr. Debessay said the monitoring would reflect the shared objectives.

Mr. Riepe asked if there was consideration of how the data would be analyzed and if the public could review the data or if it requires an expert to interpret. Mr. Riepe also asked how the Shared Objectives would be quantified.

Mr. Debessay said that information would be reflected in the plan including how the data is collected, interpreted and evaluated.

Chair Peijnenburg said the airport data provides data online and something similar for CEMOF would be ideal.

Vice Chair Reigel said you can measure the noise but if there is no reference, the data would not mean much. Vice Chair Reigel said he is thinking of Shared Objective A-5 which is an operating procedure. Vice Chair Reigel asked how the Shared Objectives are audited. Vice Chair Reigel said he has not heard a good answer on that question.

Mr. Riepe said in the past there have been talks about spot checks. Mr. Riepe said when the telephone operator asks the operations team about the complaint, are they just relying on memory.

Mr. Debessay said there is an activity log that is referenced.

Vice Chair Reigel said correlating the noise monitoring logs with the activity logs would be helpful information for the committee.

Ms. Buckley asked about the placement of the monitors and said there should be something away from the facility so they can measure what the residents are hearing. Mr. Debessay said that would all be detailed in the test plan and would depend on how many monitors would be placed at the facility.

#### Taylor Street Bridge Issues

Chair Peijnenburg said Caltrain would be responsible for putting netting on the bridge and to find the source of leaks of water and the City of San Jose would be responsible for cleaning underneath the bridge.

Mr. Riepe said he took some pictures of the area.

Chair Peijnenburg asked if the source of the water was from the washing facility. Mr. Tietjen said the train wash is a potential source of water. Mr. Tietjen said the Engineering team is considering longer term solutions. Mr. Tietjen said operations have asked the engineers to go slower through the wash to minimize water displacement.

Mr. Riepe asked if it could be from the blowers. Mr. Tietjen said there are catch pans to recycle the water.

Chair Peijnenburg asked if there was a timeline from engineering.

Mr. Tietjen said engineering has received a quote for the installation of pigeon netting underneath the bridge. Mr. Tietjen said it would be entered into the budget process and a call for projects internally to be considered.

Chair Peijnenburg asked when the earliest could be for the installation. Mr. Tietjen said the budget is approved in July so installation could occur in September or October.

Mr. Riepe asked if there were other bridges with similar problems. Mr. Tietjen said there were other bridges that have similar issues. Mr. Tietjen said that some cities have installed netting on their own as Caltrain does not have the budget to install on all the bridges.

Philip Fernandez said he has worked on this issue in the past. Mr. Fernandez said the City has run into similar budgetary issues with installing bird netting. Mr. Fernandez said Councilmember Davis' office could contact Public Works to request they clean the undercrossing.

Ms. Buckley said it is a cycle that is caused by the water. Ms. Buckley said she is concerned with people's public health and with the integrity of the bridge.

Ms. Buckley asked for the copy of the bridge inspection of the Taylor Street Bridge and the Julian Bridge.

Mr. Tietjen said he would check and see if those documents are able to be shared.

Mr. Riepe said he cannot recall if the pigeon droppings have been cleaned up within the last year. Mr. Fernandez said it was cleaned but since there are so many birds, it may not be noticeable shortly after it has been cleaned.

Chair Peijnenburg asked if Mr. Tietjen could research the ability to share the bridge report.

### **Announcements**

The next meeting will be April 26, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn: 6:41 p.m.