



Memorandum

Date: February 27, 2014

To: CalMod Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG)

From: Marian Lee, CalMod Executive Officer

Re: February CalMod E- Update

This memo provides a brief update on key CalMod activities since the January LPMG meeting.

Peninsula Corridor Electrification Program (PCEP) Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

The environmental team is scheduled to release the PCEP DEIR to the public at the end of February. The public meetings on the DEIR will be held in March and April. The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) will receive a DEIR presentation on March 6, 2014 and the LPMG will receive a similar presentation at the March 27, 2014 LPMG meeting.

Advanced Signal System (CBOSS PTC)

The Advanced Signal System project, also called Communications Based Overlay Signal System Positive Train Control (CBOSS PTC), is being installed along the Caltrain corridor. Installation of the communications subsystem started on September 4, 2013 in San Jose. The general installation progress is south to north. To date, the communications subsystem installation work has reached as far north as Redwood City.

Currently, there are a variety of installation activities occurring in several cities – Redwood City, Unincorporated San Mateo County, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Mountain View, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, and San Jose. CalMod staff continues to work closely with City and County staff to provide appropriate outreach and communications to community members, especially in areas where there are modifications to the installation schedule.

Over the five months of installation work, there have been a limited number of complaints such as noise, mud tracked on a side street, and disturbed grass. All complaints have been addressed.

CalMod Program Owner's Team

At the March 6, 2014 JPB meeting, there will be several board actions related to the selection of professional services that will bring consultants with the right expertise to be part of the CalMod team to develop and oversee the design build procurement process and manage the designers and builders of the electrification project.

Board actions include approval of contracts that will provide electric vehicle and safety expertise to the Caltrain Modernization Team. Additionally, and very importantly, the board will be asked to approve the selection of the Project Delivery Director for the Caltrain Modernization Program.

CalMod Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG)

Summary Meeting Notes for January 30, 2014

Summary Notes

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: C. Wiest (Atherton), C. Stone (Belmont), C. Lentz (Brisbane), M. Brownrigg (Burlingame), R. Holober (Millbrae), J. Siegel (Mountain View), N. Sheppard (Palo Alto), B. Pierce (Redwood City), K. Ibarra (San Bruno), R. Collins (San Carlos), G. Gillet (San Francisco), J. Matthews (San Mateo), K. Matsumoto (South San Francisco), J. Davis (Sunnyvale)

CHAIR: A. Tissier (JPB)

MEMBERS ABSENT: R. Cline (Menlo Park), S. Wiener (San Francisco County), J. Matthews (Santa Clara), A. Kalra (San Jose)

VACANT SEAT(S): San Mateo County, Santa Clara County

STAFF PRESENT: C. Fromson, M. Lee, S. Petty, D. Chung

JPB Staff Report

Staff provided the following update:

- The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project (PCEP) is expected at the end of February and the LPMG will receive a presentation on this document at the March meeting. Final certification of the EIR is scheduled for the end of 2014.
- There will be several agenda items at the next LPMG meeting in March including a presentation on what it would mean to operate longer trains and an update on the Advanced Signal System (CBOSS PTC) project. (Note: Due to the length of the DEIR presentation, there may be a need to postpone the longer train item to the May LPMG meeting.)
- San Francisco Planning Department is preparing the *Railyard Alternatives and I-280 Boulevard Feasibility Study* which not only looks at development options at Caltrain 4th and King terminus but also other development interests beyond the 4th and king station area. The RFP was issued January 29, 2014. Susan Gygi, the San Francisco Project Manager, briefly addressed the LPMG members and discussed the elements of the study.

Information/Discussion Items

1. Caltrain Strategic Plan

Caltrain's current Strategic Plan was adopted by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board in 2004. Since that time, Caltrain's customers, services, policies and future plans have evolved. It is timely for Caltrain to update the Strategic Plan to look ahead and develop appropriate policies to guide decision-making.

In November 2013, the LPMG received the first Strategic Plan presentation as part of the first wave of public input on the update effort. At the January 2014 meeting, the LPMG received a presentation on the proposed structure, guiding principles, and goals for the updated Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan is not a specific CalMod item but because it is grounded in the CalMod commitments, it was brought to the LPMG. Staff will be back to the LPMG timed with the next milestones in the planning process.

The following are comments made by LPMG members and the public. Highlighted comments below are brief. However, notes on the more extensive discussion were taken by staff and will be used for the development of the Strategic Plan.

- *Several LPMG members expressed support for the proposed goals and principles outlined in the presentation.*
- *Several LPMG members expressed support for highlighting the importance of transit oriented development and the connection to local communities.*
- *Several LPMG members stressed the importance of safety and support for future grade separations. One LPMG member discussed their experience with the construction of a grade separation in their city and why community support was critical.*
- *Other LPMP comments included looking at improved location of Caltrain ticket vending machines, the role freight will play on the corridor in the future, and the importance of understanding assumptions used in the Strategic Plan including ridership projections and the associated financial implications.*
- *A public speaker suggested looking at alternative business models to increase revenue and a more transparent process throughout the Caltrain organization.*

- *A public speaker asked that the capacity constraints and the need for additional improvements to increase capacity be highlighted in the plan.*
- *The Peninsula Freight Rail Users Group (PFRUG) sent a letter to the LPMG requesting a highlight of the benefits of freight and continued commitment to promoting a corridor that is compatible for all transit providers, including freight.*

2. LPMG Structure / Role

There has been discussion at previous Peninsula Cities Consortium (PCC) meetings about the purpose, function, management and effectiveness of the LPMG. To date, Caltrain has received letters from the City of Palo Alto and the Town of Atherton on this topic requesting discussion at the LPMG.

Staff provided an overview of the purpose of the LPMG, how the LPMG was formed, how it has been functioning over the last year and ideas from the city/county staff coordination group (CSCG) on how differently the LPMG could function.

After discussion on this topic, the LPMG reached consensus that LPMG should move forward with the current structure but continue to monitor its effectiveness and be open to making changes as necessary. The LPMG requested the Chair to continue her role in facilitating the LPMG and expressed appreciation for her time and commitment.

An important clarification was made during the discussion. An LPMG member expressed frustration that their city has limited influence on the JPB, on a range of issues beyond the CaMod Program. The chair stated while the LPMG served the purpose of influencing CalMod matters, concerns outside of the CalMod scope of work should be addressed to the JPB.

Public Comment

- *A public speaker suggested that the LPMG chair should rotate and the LPMG Chair should present to the JPB.*

LPMG Member Request

Gillian Gillet, the San Francisco LPMG representative, mentioned the annual process that the City/County of San Francisco goes through to balance their budget and the Transportation Taskforce that was created to prioritize SF capital projects and identify long-term funding sources. She stated that there may be some practices that would be helpful to know in addressing the LPMG's interest in grade separations. She offered to make a presentation to the LPMG.

(Note: This item is tentatively scheduled for the May LPMG meeting.)