

CalMod Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG) Summary Meeting Notes for June 28, 2018

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	X
Belmont	D. Hurt	
Brisbane	T. O'Connell	
Burlingame	E. Beach	X
Gilroy	TBD	
Menlo Park	R. Cline	
Millbrae	R. Holober	X
Mountain View	L. Siegel	X
Morgan Hill	S. Tate	
Palo Alto	G. Sharff	
Redwood City	S. Masur	
San Bruno	TBD	
San Carlos	R. Collins	X
San Francisco	S. Gygi	X
San Jose	S. Jimenez	
San Mateo	J. Goethals	
Santa Clara	K. Watanabe	X
South San Francisco	K. Matsumoto	X
Sunnyvale	N. Smith	X
San Francisco BOS	TBD	
San Mateo BOS	D. Pine	
Santa Clara BOS	TBD	

CHAIR: Jeff Gee

VICE CHAIR: Emily Beach

VACANT SEATS: Gilroy, San Bruno, Santa Clara BOS, San Francisco BOS

CALTRAIN STAFF: Casey Fromson, John Funghi, Sebastian Petty, Liz Scanlon

1. Staff Report

No items to report.

2. Caltrain Business Plan

Sebastian Petty, Senior Policy Advisor, gave an update on the project's structure, management, and consultant team; distribution of the technical analysis, production, and outreach/engagement work; and key milestone timeline.

LPMG members' key comments regarding the Caltrain Business Plan discussion included the following:

- *A member supported the approach to partnering with contractors and outside experts and noted the importance of effectively interfacing with the community.*
- *A member supported the consultant team assembled due to their work on previous projects. The member also stated a desire for increased evening and weekend service in some of the more densely populated cities in the Peninsula after electrification, noting overcrowding as a result of the popular nightlife and restaurants in these cities.*

Public Comments:

- *A public speaker asked if the consultants would have input on the downtown extension design. The speaker also asked if a list of deliverables would be generated and shared with the public. A public speaker supported such a comprehensive program that incorporates a range of experts in many disciplines. She asked if Caltrain plans to partner with other area transportation companies and providers to develop a regional fare system to allow more universal travel across the region and its different jurisdictional transportation providers.*

3. Caltrain Electrification Project

John Funghi, Cal Mod Chief Officer, gave an overview of construction activities related to electrification and EMU fabrication.

LPMG members' key comments include the following:

- *A member asked if any of the specific project activities would be affected by tariffs being imposed on both sides of the Atlantic. (Staff said it would continue to look into the referenced aluminum tariffs; however, the train manufacturer does not believe that costs will be increased. Staff noted they will continue to monitor the issue.)*
- *Another member requested they (LPMG) be notified if changes occur. (Staff noted the request.)*
- *A member expressed excitement related to the project progress.*

Public Comments:

- *No public comment at this time*

4. HSR Updates

Boris Lipkin, HSR Acting Northern California Regional Director gave an update on the 2018 business plan.

LPMG members' key comments include the following:

- *A member asked why the San Jose-Merced portion is prioritized above the Pacheco Pass portion (HSR Staff explained Pacheco Pass cannot be prioritized until certain aspects of that portion, including determining risk factors and financial assurances, have yet to be completely assessed.)*
- *A member asked if Diridon Station is the marker between the two portions. (HSR Staff replied in the affirmative.)*

- *Another member asked what phases of the infrastructure installation are funded, and where the current funding stops and if this is factored into the updated business plan. (HSR staff replied there are three primary sources of funding related to the overall project and the Central Valley line from Madera to Bakersfield is already funded and being constructed, as well as South San Francisco to Gilroy. He noted the Pacheco Pass portion of the project is still being determined.)*

Bruce Fukuji, HSR Northern California Planning Manager, presented their Connecting Communities Strategy.

LPMG members' key comments include the following:

- *A member thanked Bruce for his commitment to making sure the community has a say in how the projects moves forward and expressed support for their inclusion of bike and pedestrian considerations have been. The member also expressed concern over the need for grade separation projects. (HSR staff acknowledged the concern.)*
- *Another member brought up their concern over people being struck by trains and that risk increases with high speed rail. The member suggested the need for "protective stations." (HSR staff said safety engineers are investigating that issue to determine how to properly address it.)*
- *The member asked if safety engineers are talking to the staffs of local elected officials. (HSR noted they, with Caltrain, are looking at o the proximity of trains to people on platforms and in the surrounding vicinity. He noted they are trying to determine which stations there is a potential problem and how to ultimately address the issue in those places.)*
- *Another member asked about grade separations, expressing his concern over safety and community buy in. (HSR staff discussed the work their team is doing to decrease the likelihood of any unnecessary duplication of work regarding grade separation and HSR construction).(JPB staff stated efforts are underway to make sure that the improvements being made to Caltrain today will be able to be blended into California's greater high speed rail network as the larger HSR plan begin to come to fruition in the future.)*
- *A member asked about the asterisks in HSR's slide discussing community projects (HSR staff said the cities or projects with asterisks next to their names are slated for multi-year funding.)*
- *The same member asked what considerations are being made to provide safe passage across (over or under) rails for wildlife. (HSR staff explained those concerns are beginning to be explored and addressed by having direct conversations with each of the communities impacted. In discussing which communities will be given priority with regard to environmental concerns, HSR staff explained eight cities have been identified either because they are "disadvantaged/low income communities" or because they were deemed priority communities by the CalEnviroScreen that was conducted.)*
- *Another member asked if the deadline for the active transportation funding is July 31. (HSR confirmed it is July 31.)*
- *A member asked if Mr. Fukuji is the appropriate point of contact for that component of the project. (HSR staff responded in the affirmative.)*
- *A member asked Mr. Fukuji how he defines Northern California with regard to his role on the project. (Mr. Fukuji said that, as it relates to his role, Northern California is defined as the Merced to San Francisco portion.)*

Public Comments:

- *A few members of the public noted their concerns with certain aspects of the HSR project and one member of the public spelled out their support of certain parts of the project.*

5. Public Comment

- *A public speaker expressed support of the Gilroy extension to decrease congestion. He expressed concern over the Pacheco Pass area as the region's water district is proposing a water reservoir in the same place as the train tunnels. He noted another route to bring passengers just south of Pacheco has been identified and suggested to save funds the Madera and Bakersfield portion not move forward and instead create a rail route to Fresno.*
- *A member of the public asked about grade separations, stating her hope that more of the funding be from the State of California since the San Francisco – San Jose corridor is eventually going to be one of the hubs of a larger statewide high speed rail system.*
- *Another member of the public stated support of grade separations.*

6. LPMG Member Comments/Requests

Liz Scanlon, Caltrain Planning Manager, noted the JBP FY19 budget was recently approved and information specifically related to grade separation toolkit would be available from their board soon.

LPMG members' key comments include the following:

- *A member asked which consulting firm they are working with to attain information about grade separations. (JPB staff responded that AECOM is the primary consulting firm and additional subcontractors will be brought on as well.)*
- *A member mentioned that on June 26, the Mountain View City Council unanimously voted to place a ballot measure on the November ballot for an employer head count tax, an increase in the business license tax that would generate an estimated \$6 million a year.*

7. Next Meeting: Thursday, July 26, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.