

**Caltrain Centralized Equipment Maintenance and Operations Facility
(CEMOF) Monitoring Committee
San Jose City Hall, 200 E. Santa Clara, 8th Floor, San Jose, CA**

**July 22, 2009
Minutes**

Members Present: Art Lloyd (JPB), Chris Tulin (College Park), Mike Riepe (alternate) (Garden Alameda), Mike Smith (Shasta/Hanchett Park), Ben Tripousis (VTA)

Members Absent: Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio (San Jose City Council), Sally Logothetti (Garden Alameda)

Staff Present: Tasha Bartholomew, Michelle Bouchard, Nancy McKenna, David Olmeda

Attendees: David Barry, Kay Gutknecht, Carol Rosen (City of San Jose)

Chair Mike Smith called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee (Riepe/Tulin) approved the minutes of March 10, 2009 (Lloyd abstained).

Public Comment

None.

Staff Report

Director of Maintenance David Olmeda said it is not normal for Amtrak to move engines on JPB property. He said a new engine was delivered and a larger forklift was needed to move this piece of equipment.

Mr. Olmeda said unbeknownst to staff this engine was shipped with oil. During the move the load shifted which caused the fork lift operator to reposition the engine which caused a rupture in the oil line. The driver was unable to see the oil otherwise he would have stopped.

Mr. Olmeda said once staff saw this, the City of San Jose was notified to make sure no oil went into the drain. He said city staff came out and a citation was issued to Amtrak, but he is not sure if there will be a fine.

Mr. Olmeda said staff was commended by the City for the action taken and staff has spoken to Amtrak to ensure this doesn't happen again. He said next time Amtrak will flatbed the equipment across the facility instead

of using a forklift. Mr. Olmeda said Amtrak normally uses the dumbwaiter to move large equipment, but the forklift didn't fit inside the dumbwaiter.

Chairperson's Report

Chair Smith welcomed Ben Tripousis and Art Lloyd to the committee as official members. The appropriate paperwork has been received for the alternates for all three neighborhood associations. Chair Smith asked if a tour should be given to Chris Tulin and Ben Tripousis. Nancy McKenna will coordinate dates for the tour with the members and Mr. Olmeda.

Committee Report

No report.

Election of Officers

A motion (Riepe/Lloyd) to nominate Chris Escher and Mike Smith for Vice-Chair and Chair, respectively for 2009 was approved unanimously by roll call.

Appointment to Quarterly Report Subcommittee

Chair Smith appointed Mr. Escher and Sally Logothetti and himself to the subcommittee to prepare the quarterly report to be sent to the San Jose City Council, VTA and the JPB.

Screeching Tracks/Lubricator Maintenance

Mr. Olmeda said the noise is worse with the heavy loads of the freight trains. The trains can go as fast as 40 mph on the turn, but if the trains go slower the screeching occurs.

Deputy Director of Rail Operations Michelle Bouchard said there is an item in the FY2010 capital budget to replace the lubricator on tracks two and three at CEMOF. There currently is a lubricator on track one to address any issues on UP tracks. Ms. Bouchard said Kelsan is a friction modifier supplier.

Chris Escher arrived at 6:32 p.m.

Chair Smith asked if the equipment is in place and releasing the grease, and being maintained. Ms. Bouchard said staff cannot control the maintenance on track one.

Ms. Bouchard said Mr. Lloyd spoke with his contact at Union Pacific (UP) who told staff about the friction modifier. She said this pilot device was installed to do the testing when there is dry weather.

Ms. Bouchard asked the members present if there is less noise, not due to volume, but because of maintenance.

Kay Gutknecht said she has noticed less traffic volume and less noise, but when she does it is very loud.

Ms. Tulin said she definitely hears the noise, but probably because the windows are open.

Ms. Bouchard reiterated these units will not work if they are not maintained. The cost is \$50,000 per unit and maintenance is quite a bit more.

Ms. Gutknecht said it is important that this move forward before the next meeting.

Extended Engine Idling

Mr. Olmeda said staff has monitored this issue by spot checking at all hours at CEMOF. When there is unnecessary idling staff has told Amtrak about the shared objectives and the effects on the neighborhood. Mr. Olmeda did reiterate that while equipment is on the service and inspection (S&I) tracks the engines will idle longer. He said whenever possible the growlers will not be moved in the late hours to the train wash. Mr. Olmeda reiterated that in the morning multiple engines may start up at very close intervals.

Mr. Olmeda said when the engines get loaded for testing it causes the main engine to go to throttle eight, which is the highest level. This test lasts an hour or 1 ½ hours, but these tests are now being done during the day.

Mr. Riepe said the idling noise is loudest at Pershing Street where the street, sound wall and storage tracks are. He thinks the noise is bouncing off the building and wall because he doesn't hear the noise from the S&I tracks, but from the storage tracks.

Ms. Gutknecht said she is glad to hear Amtrak is complying with the idling shared objective. She said the hotline is not what the neighbors envisioned it would be.

Mr. Escher said Amtrak and Caltrain staff should go into the neighborhood and hear the noise and then go directly into the facility and figure the answer immediately instead of three or four days later.

Mr. Olmeda said Mr. Coleman, who is in charge of rail maintenance, has gone through the neighborhood directly to try to identify noise the neighborhoods are complaining about. He said staff will continue to monitor Amtrak.

Neighborhood Outreach/Online Survey

The survey was distributed to the committee.

Ms. Gutknecht asked about the survey and how many were distributed.

Mr. Escher said he hoped to get as many responses as possible. The survey was available on-line and the all the neighborhood associations were sent the link. In the e-mail it stated hardcopies were available for those that wanted them.

Ms. Gutknecht said this is unfortunate that the committee didn't make any effort to solicit the neighborhoods.

Mr. Tripousis said the issues raised on the survey are exactly the issues the committee is already discussing.

Mr. Tulin said she will go door-to-door in College Park neighborhood and distribute the survey.

Ms. Gutknecht said everyone should be notified of the survey and given a chance to complete.

Mr. Escher said all surveys are due to him by August 15 and he will forward to staff who will input into Survey Monkey.

Announcements

The next meeting will be October 28, 2009 at 6 p.m.

Adjourn 7:30 p.m.