

**Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
Board of Directors Meeting
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos CA 94070**

**Minutes
April 3, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Cisneros, S. Elsbernd, J. Hartnett (Chair), J. Hill, D. Gage,
A. Lloyd, F. Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: N. Ford, K. Yeager

MTC LIAISON: S. Lempert

STAFF PRESENT: G. Cameron, J. Cassman, C. Cavitt, B. Doty, M. Espinosa,
H. Goode, V. Harrington, C. Harvey, R. Haskin, R. Lake,
G. Lambert, M. Martinez, I. McAvoy, N. McKenna, D. Miller,
M. Rush, M. Scanlon, M. Simon

Chair Jim Hartnett called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. and Director Jerry Hill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Doug DeLong, Mountain View, said on Caltrain this morning the PA system was poor and the TVM was unable to sell tickets. Mr. DeLong shared a newspaper article from Texas about a person involved in a collision with a train while talking on a cell phone. Mr. DeLong said that Operation Lifesaver should have a campaign on safety and not mixing other activities when driving.

Pat Giorni, Burlingame, said she attended the Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee meeting on Tuesday night and Bob Doty, Rail Transformation Chief, delivered a great presentation on Caltrain 2025. One of Ms. Giorni's concerns is future bike capacity and when a survey is taken, the number of passengers with bicycles that are bumped needs to be noted. Ms. Giorni asked when the Caltrain Bicycle Advisory Committee meets.

David Rusconi, Redwood City, read a letter to the Board regarding a locomotive that bears the name of Jackie Speier. Mr. Rusconi said this constitutes an endorsement for a political candidate by using a \$2 million piece of public equipment as a political billboard up and down the Peninsula. Mr. Rusconi asked Chair Harnett what he intends to do. Chair Hartnett referred to staff for follow-up.

Jeff Carter, Burlingame, said at last month's meeting he addressed the issue of the clocks being out of synchronization and this issue continues. Mr. Carter complimented staff on the new Burlingame station, but stated there is lack of shelter for bicyclists at the northern end.

Ed DeLanoy, San Carlos, said that he is no longer pursuing the issue of diesel fuel with the Joint Powers Board and the San Mateo County Transit District. Mr. DeLanoy also asked why he was left behind on two separate occasions even though he was within a few steps of the train entrance.

David Gavrich, San Francisco Bay Railroad, said that the Bay Railroad is the new short line railroad for the Port of San Francisco that interchanges with Union Pacific for freight in their rail yard. Mr. Gavrich said a team of six people from the California Air Resources Board is working with them to convert all of their locomotives and rail terminal equipment to 100 percent biodiesel.

Paul Wendt, Belmont, said the diesel exhaust on one of the Bombardier cars is awful. Executive Director Michael Scanlon said that staff will check into this issue.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Board approved the items under the Consent Calendar as follows:

- a) Approval of Minutes of March 6, 2008
- b) Acceptance of the Statement of Revenues and Expenses, February 2008

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Hartnett had no report.

MTC LIAISON REPORT

Sue Lempert, MTC Liaison, said MTC is continuing to work on the 2035 Regional Transit Plan, which will have huge implications for Caltrain. Ms. Lempert said several projects included in this plan are Caltrain electrification, Dumbarton Rail and the San Francisco Transbay Terminal. Ms. Lempert said an item on today's agenda involving Caltrain taking the lead on negotiating with the railroads to improve access to passenger right of way is a large part of the regional rail plan.

REPORT OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

Bruce Jenkins, CAC Chair, reported that at the last meeting Marketing Manager Pat Boland reported on the key findings of the passenger survey; Marisa Espinosa, Manager of Research and Planning, gave a presentation on the Bicycle Master Plan; and Michael Kiesling authored a 2025 resolution that was approved unanimously by the CAC.

Chair Hartnett thanked Chair Jenkins for the resolution.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Scanlon reported the following:

- Year-to-Date Statistics:
 - a. Total Ridership was 7,672,7528, an increase of 7.9 percent.
 - b. Average Weekday Ridership was 36,460, an increase of 6.8 percent.
 - c. Total Revenue was \$25,687,348, an increase of 16.2 percent.
 - d. On-time Performance was 93.2 percent, a decrease of 2.5 percent.
 - e. Caltrain Shuttle Ridership was 5,124, an increase of 5.9 percent.
- Next month staff will be presenting a preliminary budget for review.
- Giants baseball has begun with three exhibition games and the home opener is next week. Special baseball service will be offered again.
- Caltrain hosted a rail safety event co-sponsored by the Federal Railroad Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, the first of its kind in the country. Rail operators came together and spoke about best practices. This will become a yearly event.

- On page three of the Safety and Security report is an excellent picture of the installation of the new underpass at California Avenue.
- The southbound platform in Burlingame opened on April 1.
- At the last JPB meeting the Atherton Rail committee made a request that fire damages at the Atherton station be repaired. A contract is being awarded to Amtrak to begin doing some of the repairs at the station.
- Five years ago today the new bombardier cars and locomotives were rolled out in Burlingame.

ANNUAL PASSENGER COUNT

Chuck Harvey, Chief Operating Officer reported the following:

- The purpose of the count is to provide a measurement relative to previous years.
- The survey allows staff to evaluate the service.
- Actual physical headcounts are taken on every weekday train averaged over five days.
- Average daily ridership is 36,993, up 9.3 percent from last year.
- The majority of the new riders are during peak hours.
- Twenty stations have increased ridership from 2007 and four stations have decreased ridership, with San Francisco still being the top station.
- There are five peak trains that are at or near capacity in both directions.
- There will be a delivery of eight new bombardier cars in October 2008.
- The average trip length is up about 10 percent.
- All three counties are showing higher ridership that is pretty evenly split.
- Sunday ridership is up and total ridership is up nearly 50 percent.
- Revenue is almost \$40 million annually.
- The system continues to attract new riders.
- There are a number of large capital projects in the works. They include the Palo Alto and California Avenue stations, grade crossing and fencing projects. Staff is completing design on the South San Francisco and Santa Clara stations.

Public Comment

Pat Giorni, Burlingame, said that at least 8 percent capacity needs to remain for bicyclists.

Jeff Carter, Burlingame, said it was stated that the service is underpriced and staff needs to realize that passengers have other means of transportation. Mr. Carter said there needs to be a reevaluation of point-to-point fares. Mr. Carter said that gas prices are driving people to ride the train and BART. Mr. Carter said that comparisons should be made to 2001, prior to the dot-com bust and not 2004.

Director Forrest Williams said people need to realize we are not going back to where we were. Gas prices are not going to go back to \$2 a gallon and we need to concentrate on where we go from here.

Chair Harnett said there are challenges ahead of us and they are challenges of success.

Mr. Scanlon said that underpriced is an unfortunate term that found its way into a report and since has been stricken and forbidden to be used. Mr. Scanlon said the word was used in reference to the fact that after the last several fare increases we actually gained riders.

**AUTHORIZE A FUNDING APPLICATION FOR REGIONAL MEASURE 2 (RM2)
FUNDING FOR THE REGIONAL RAIL RIGHT OF WAY PROJECT**

Howard Goode, Special Project Manager, said that through discussions MTC is willing to provide RM2 funding for the right of way project, which will be led by the Joint Powers Board. Mr. Goode said there are four items to consider. The first is to approve the application for funds. The second is to approve the form of resolution required by MTC. The third is to authorize the Executive Director to take actions as necessary for receipt of funds. The last is to modify the annual capital budget to reflect that \$200,000 of RM2 funds will be received as 100 percent funding for this effort.

Public Comment

Vaughn Wolf, Pleasanton, asked if staff is considering the right of way for a double track, 100-mile-an-hour electrified service, and completely grade separated on all of the right of ways, or if it is being done in pieces.

Mr. Scanlon said that out of the regional rail meetings there are many entities dealing with Union Pacific, including the Port of Oakland, BART, ACE, Capital Corridor and the JPB. The different agencies are trying to approach UP as a unified force with the JPB in the lead. Mr. Scanlon said that Mr. Goode, Rail Transformation Chief Bob Doty, and Legal Counsel David Miller will be the three people that will be at the forefront of the effort.

Director Don Gage said that if we are making this type of effort we should speak with our legislators and get them behind this project.

Mr. Scanlon said there are huge passenger implications particularly to the freight railroads.

Mr. Miller said that one of the advantages of looking at this issue regionally is that we not only examine the individual needs of each property or each region, but also it allows us to better understand what the freight railroads need because there are certain things we may be able to convey to them.

The motion (Williams/Hill) to authorize a funding application for Regional Measure 2 funding was approved unanimously by roll call.

UPDATE ON BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

Marisa Espinosa, Manager, Planning and Research, provided a presentation:

- The scope of the Master Bicycle Plan is to focus on improvements for bicycle parking and access to Caltrain stations.
- The Bicycle Master Plan is funded by a federal transit planning grant administered through the MTC.
- Caltrain carries more than 2,300 bicycles on board each day; about 7-10 percent of passengers bring their bikes on the train.
- There is no peak period or directional restrictions on passengers bringing their bikes on board.
- Some of the challenges in creating this plan are addressing passenger safety, wayside solutions for patron's needs, the absence of uniform capacity or design of bike parking and bicycle boarding impacts on dwell time.

- The key staff working on the plan are Ms. Espinosa, Celia Chung, Consultant and Project Manager, an internal steering committee from bus and rail operations, station facilities and communications, and a Technical Advisory Group (TAG), which includes representatives from neighboring transit agencies.
- There is a range of bicycle facilities throughout the system from the valet parking at San Francisco to bike lockers and racks along the corridor.
- Key elements include systemwide parking and access design guidelines and recommendations for capital improvements at key stations.
- Development of the plan began in January 2007.
- Extensive data collection was done including an online survey and a bump survey.
- Draft plan will be completed in May 2008 and finalized by June 30, 2008.

Ms. Lempert said she is glad to see JPB staff is doing this plan. Ms. Lempert said from this report that staff is addressing additional access on the trains, while also encouraging people to ride their bikes and park them rather than actually making more space available on the trains. One of the problems is that people want to ride their bikes to the train and then be able to ride once they deboard. Ms. Lempert asked if it is being considered to provide free bikes for people who park their bike at their boarding station, then use a free bike at their destination station.

Director Williams said he rode the trains during a recent trip to Tokyo and there was not a single bike on the train. Director Williams asked about the return on investment for allowing bikes on the train. He said the best practice would be to have a place to park these bikes and possibly get a private investor. Director Williams suggested that maybe there needs to be specifications for what bikes can be brought on the train.

Director Gage asked how much outreach is done to local businesses for flex hours so employees can take the train at off-peak hours.

Ms. Espinosa said that this will be explored.

Public Comment

Andy Thornley, San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, thanked the JPB for the excellent service for bicyclists on Caltrain. Mr. Thornley said that passengers who bring their bikes on board make up the largest growing segment of the market and there needs to be a way to find room for these additional bicyclists.

Paul Wendt, Belmont, said there is a big issue with the dwell time and the loading and off-loading of bicycles. The Gallery cars have steep stairs and narrow stair wells where the Bombardier cars have better loading for bicycles, but less capacity. Mr. Wendt said a possible solution would be to attach cages to the bulkheads on the Bombardier cars as they are more efficient for bicycles.

Jeff Carter, Burlingame, said people bring their bikes on board because they do not want to leave them. Mr. Carter said that to get to the meeting this morning he had to take a much earlier train because trains are at capacity and he didn't want to get bumped. Mr. Carter said that after last month's JPB CAC meeting four members who had their bikes were not allowed on the trains because of capacity. He said that staff needs to keep pushing for dedicated funding for Caltrain.

Pat Giorni, Burlingame, said that at the TA CAC meeting she was asked by one of the members if she had been contacted by the San Mateo Downtown Merchants because they wanted to know if there is a possibility of more bike routes as they want to improve conditions for their employees who bike ride. Ms. Giorni said in response to Director Williams comment about the transit in Tokyo and adequate transportation, once you step off the train there are inadequate service connections to get across town. She said that bicyclists are willing to pay an additional fee during peak times to bring bikes on the train.

Director José Cisneros said he appreciated all the work staff has done. He said there are a lot of good ideas and that he looks forward to the final plan. Director Cisneros said staff should look at possibly having reservations on peak trains and maybe there could be a fee. Director Cisneros said that Caltrain goes way beyond any other transit system to accommodate.

Director Hill asked if the biking public who utilize the service was surveyed. Ms. Espinosa said about 200 comments were received from the on-line survey and the workshops generated helpful information.

Director Hill said the Air District has a lot of money available for funding for bicyclists.

Ms. Lempert said that MTC is putting millions of dollars into bicycles this year and maybe this money could be combined with money from the Air District.

Chair Hartnett said that the Bicycle Master Plan needs to fit into a broader context of what is the master plan for the entire system. Chair Hartnett said that sometimes we forget that the bicyclists are part of the overall customer base that needs to be considered. It would be good to know why they use the bicycles rather than walk or use some other type of transportation. We need to get many people where they want to go.

Mr. Scanlon thanked everyone for their comments. The dialogue has shown the spectrum of this plan. In perspective, the Bicycle Master Plan will not solve it all. Mr. Scanlon said that a balance is what is needed. There are going to be people who are going to need to take their bikes on board, others may park them at wayside. Mr. Scanlon said that as we look at the bike issue we are still dealing with the capacity issue of all riders, whether they are with a bike or not.

CORRESPONDENCE

Provided in the reading file.

BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS

None

DATE/TIME/PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 1, 2008, 10 a.m. at San Mateo County Transit District Administrative Building, Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor, 1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos CA 94070.

REPORT OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Conference with Legal Counsel pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 pending litigation: Kuc et al vs. Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board et al.

David Miller, Legal Counsel, said that he is recommending that the Board adjourn into a closed session to discuss a pending litigation matter listed on the agenda. The Ralph M. Brown Act permits closed session discussion of this item.

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 11:40 a.m.

Attendees at the closed session: G. Cameron, J. Cassman, P. Glenn, V. Harrington, C. Harvey, R. Haskin, G. Lambert, J. Lawson, C. Marshall, M. Martinez, I. McAvoy, D. Miller, M. Rush, M. Scanlon, M. Simon

The meeting reopened at 11:45 a.m.

Following the closed session, the Board reconvened in open session and Mr. Miller said that for the record the JPB has met in closed session as permitted by the Brown Act to discuss a matter of pending litigation as listed on the agenda. The Board of Directors has given appropriate instructions to counsel relative to the disposition to this matter.

ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.