

**Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
Work Program – Legislative – Planning Committee (WPLP)
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos CA**

MINUTES OF MARCH 24, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: C. Stone (Chair), C. Chavez, S. Heminger

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: J. Hartnett, J. Cassman, S. van Hoften, S. Petty, M. Bouchard, D. Hansel, R. Rios, B. Tietjen, H. Beckford, A. Simmons, D. Seamans, S. Wong

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Charles Stone called the subcommittee meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

District Secretary Dora Seamans called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, commented on having a chief engineer, electrification-engineering standards, plans needing a mechanical engineer, and current plans excluding high-speed trains and level boarding.

Adrian Brandt, San Mateo County, commented on discounting monthly passes, supporting ridership recovery, thinking about offering different fare products for people working from home, limits of one percent grade standards, engineering standards, and grade separations.

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, commented on exploring new fare products, including a seven-day pass, and getting rid of fare zones.

4. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 24, 2021

Motion/Second: Chavez/Heminger

Ayes: Chavez, Heminger, Stone

Noes: None

Absent: None

5. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND APPROVALS OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS: SUPPORT SB 339 (WIENER)

Brent Tietjen, Government and Community Affairs Officer, reported a third COVID relief package signed into law including \$5 billion for Bay Area Transit agencies and an increase in electrification funds. Staff recommended support for Senate Bill (SB) 339,

which would extend a pilot program that studies alternatives to the gas tax through 2027.

Public comment

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, commented the on inequity of fund distribution with the Valley Transportation Authority receiving another \$39 million for tranche two, and the use of funds for building and rebuilding.

Drew, San Mateo, commented on using funds allocated for the electrification project, \$50 million, to purchase additional electrical cars.

Motion/Second: Heminger/Chavez

Ayes: Chavez, Heminger, Stone

Noes: None

Absent: None

6. UPDATE ON SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO PROJECT

Michelle Bouchard, Acting Executive Director, noted that this would be coming back for additional funding and authorization. She stated that this project provides critical safety and benefits for the railroad by replacing the existing station and providing a tunnel and protected crossing. Ms. Bouchard provided an update on project schedule, budget history, current risks, and next steps. She noted that they are pushing for a July to September completion date and the need to get assurances through the third party assessment.

Public comment

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, commented on using two current overpasses to connect the overhead to the platform. He commented on current passing tracks being replaced by a platform that cannot support a fast passing train, what would be needed for level boarding and increasing expenses. Mr. Lebrun commented on the removal of 4,700 feet of Union Pacific storage yard.

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, commented on security concerns with tunnels. He questioned why the fiber optic trench was not part of the Southern Pacific purchase at that time.

The Board members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions regarding fiber optics with Southern Pacific and moving the Union Pacific track south to Newhall Street.

7. MAJOR TERMINAL PLANNING EFFORTS

Anthony Simmons, System Wide Planning and Policy Director, provided an update of major terminal work along the corridor (San Jose, Redwood City, and San Francisco). He spoke on the Diridon Station Area Plan, JPB property entitlement, Redwood City grade separations, future rail-oriented analysis, San Francisco Downtown Extension (DTX) and Pennsylvania Avenue Extension (PAX).

Public comment

Vaughn Wolffe, Pleasanton, inquired whether the planning for Redwood City included in-lining of service from East Bay (ACE and Capital Corridor). He commented on the Dumbarton Bridge, the Capital Corridor, and spoke in favor of integrating a modern rail system in a mega-region, 80 to 90 miles out from what may be considered the center.

Adrian Brandt, San Mateo County, commented on the one percent grade separation standard providing less alternatives and increasing costs with the Redwood City station as an example. He lauded the elevated station design and commented on level crossing removals and expressed concern on a conflict of interest for one of the partners of the Dumbarton Rail Study.

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, commented hiring senior executive management, South San Francisco work, the lack of interconnection at Diridon, Redwood City passing tracks and level boarding platform, pushing the station north and completely ignoring two miles of tracks that could be high-speed rail station. He commented on design lacking connection to the East Bay, and Link21.

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, commented on needing a four-track design to allow the most versatile train operation, Prologis plans for the Fourth and Townsend railyard, and the costs for the Pennsylvania detour.

Drew, San Mateo, commented on the Redwood City junction zoning and equity issues with moving the station north.

The Board members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions regarding budget and schedule information, who owns the Diridon Station, housing development versus commercial development, JPB property entitlement, the footprint of JPB ownership, high speed rail options, deferral options for DTX, deferral of pedestrian connection to BART, prioritizing funding, and how decisions are being made.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUESTS

Director Heminger requested scope, schedule, and budget information with all future project updates.

Director Chavez requested staff come back to the Board with reflection on how we negotiates collectively, without negotiating against partner agencies, and to have a framework for approach that partner agencies could buy into ahead of time.

Chair Stone echoed the request for more in depth context with future project updates and for future onboarding of new Board members on how, why and where we think we are going.

9. DATE/TIME OF NEXT REGULAR WPLP COMMITTEE MEETING: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021 AT 3:00 PM VIA ZOOM

10. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.