MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2021
SPECIAL MEETING #3 - GOVERNANCE

MEMBERS PRESENT: D. Davis (Chair), J. Gee, S. Heminger (Vice Chair), D. Pine, C. Stone, M. Zmuda

MEMBERS ABSENT: C. Chavez, G. Hendricks, S. Walton,


1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
Chair Dev Davis called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

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

2. CALTRAIN GOVERNANCE SPECIAL MEETING #3 (INCLUDING APPROACH TO REGIONAL AND NON-Self-DIRECTED RELATIONSHIPS; ACTIVE AND EMERGING DISCUSSIONS; STRATEGIC ISSUES; AND NEXT STEPS)

Chair Davis introduced the purpose of the meeting regarding regional and non-self-directed options and stated uncertainty regarding having this discussion today in light of a recent resolution passed by the SamTrans Board regarding the initiation of litigation. She explained the resolution requested reimbursement from Joint Powers Agreement partner agencies for the initial right of way purchase in 1991. Chair Davis said she saw the resolution as being outside the current discussion and how there was concern about what the initiation of litigation meant for this governance discussion.

Chair Davis said they could decide as a group whether to go forward with today’s meeting and would allow public comment on issues not on the agenda today.

Director Charles Stone stated that the letters and resolution sent by SamTrans have no bearing on the governance process and stated its obligations to see this through for tax payers.

The Board members had a discussion on the following topics:
- Whether or not to proceed with the meeting and why
- Not having a majority of members from each of the three agencies present
- The resolution asking member agencies about their efforts to seek reimbursement
- The purpose of the letter emphasizing the importance of repayment to SamTrans
- The letter/resolution not precluding a discussion today

Chair Davis suggested adjourning the meeting after public comment and to agendize the right of way discussion at the next special meeting.
Public Comment
Ray Mueller, Menlo Park, commented on Boards proceeding all the time under threat of litigation, tax payers expecting the Board to meet due to fiduciary duties, the Board meeting despite disagreement between parties. Tax payers in all three jurisdictions expecting Board members to continue to operate despite disagreements and disputes.

Vaughn Wolffe, Pleasanton, commented on previous Board disputes on right of way purchase and electrification, and moving electrification along before climate change in 2035.

Ethan Mizzi, South San Francisco, commented on disputes, creating a world class transit system, seamless transit, integrating BART, annexing San Mateo and Santa Clara, BART owning Caltrain, and working in the best interest of riders.

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, commented on the letter from the Bay Area Council, Board members coming to conclusions, sales tax measures passed over the last 20 years being untangled if BART merges with Caltrain, the 1996 agreement that SamTrans manages without agencies paying back for the right of way, and railroad crossings in San Jose.

Aleta Dupree, Oakland, commented on Caltrain being an independent agency and simplifying the system.

Cliff Barger, San Francisco, commented on the meeting being cancelled and on the system not working for people without direct rides.

Remi Tan, Pacifica, commented on the meeting not going forward, creating a regional system by consolidating train and bus systems.

Elizabeth Alexis, Palo Alto, commented on how the current resolution was arrived at, the importance of high quality transit, not holding two different positions on one Board, disagreeing with the Caltrain BART merger, and continuing with governance discussions.

Laura Tolkoff, San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), commented on disputes, isolated planning, regional projects, thousands of people depending on this transportation and climate change.

Ian Griffith, Seamless Bay Area, expressed disappointment in a cancelled meeting and commented on not having representatives that span multiple jurisdictions not tied to specific counties.

Julia Mates, Belmont, expressed disappointment and commented on a duty to the public taxpayers to hold board meetings.

Mark Roest, San Mateo, commented on unified system maps connecting systems to major pathways building over BART and having escalator systems down to BART with protected mobility device paths.
Adina Levin, Friends of Caltrain, expressed disappointment on not convening and commented on the importance of regional options discussions and governing for the benefit of riders in the region.

Jason Baker, Silicon Valley Leadership Group, commented on the public saving Caltrain last year, the Board pulling together to pass a difficult Measure and being able to pull together on governance.

Alicia Gary, Redwood City, expressed disappointment on not having a meeting today, and commented on prioritizing the regional Caltrain system over local needs and having a transportation agency that covers everyone.

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, expressed disappointment in the cancellation and commented on having a regional view, repaying SamTrans, and solving this tactfully.

Adrian Brandt, Redwood City, commented on members missing the meeting due to inquiry into efforts to settle a 30 year old debt, and loyalties being split between ridership and various governmental agencies.

Motion/Second: Davis/Zmuda to adjourn the meeting and agendize the discussion of repayment of SamTrans for the next Special Meeting.
Ayes: Zmuda, Heminger, Davis
Noes: Gee, Pine, Stone,
Absent: Chavez, Hendricks, Walton

Board members noted that they would not like to discuss governance matters with the bare majority of the Board present.

Director Heminger left at 9:23 am.
Director Zmuda left at 9:24 am.

Chair Davis announced a lack of quorum.

3. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 am.

An audio/video recording of this meeting is available online at www.Caltrain.com. Questions may be referred to the Board Secretary’s office by phone at 650.508.6242 or by email to Board@Caltrain.com.