



JPB Board of Directors
Meeting of June 25, 2021

Correspondence as of June 24, 2021

Subject

1 Bay Area Council on governance



June 24, 2021

The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
12509 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070

Dear Chair Davis and the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board,

The Bay Area Council has a long history of supporting the evolution of Caltrain service through the establishment of “Baby Bullet” service, helping merge High-Speed Rail and Caltrain on the Peninsula, securing and protecting federal funds, ensuring the Transbay Transit Center is ready for future extension of Caltrain, modernization through the electrification program, participating as a stakeholder in the business plan development process, supporting the adoption of the 2040 Service Vision, and supporting legislation and multiple ballot measures with expenditure plans that fund Caltrain infrastructure and modernization.

As the JPB Board continues to undertake the process of evaluating governance options, your next workshop will be on regional efforts and planning. We would respectfully ask that the following recommendations be considered as part of your discussion:

- A clear commitment and policy decision supporting full implementation of the 2040 Service Vision without change, whatever the outcome of the governance process.
- A recognition that more time is needed to evaluate new regional initiatives underway which are central to evaluating Caltrain’s governance options and these initiatives will not align with the current December 31, governance deadline. These initiatives include:
 - Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force -- expected recommendation July 2021
 - Network Manager Business Case -- may conclude December 2021
 - Regional Fare Coordination and Integration Task Force -- early fall 2021
 - MTC Regional Rail Partnership Grant -- timeframe TBD
 - “Seamless and Resilient Bay Area Transit Act” –AB 629 introduced in State Legislature by Assemblymember Chiu -- likely to move forward in 2022
- Data should drive any governance process, not self-imposed deadlines.

Moreover, the region is still waiting to see what new commute and ridership patterns look like post-Covid and what new funding and policy may be available from the federal government to support Caltrain governance.

We are half-way through this process. In six months the JPB has a self-imposed deadline to adopt the 2021 governance recommendations. I urge you to make a decision that does not foreclose on a regional option while major regional initiatives are underway. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gwen Litvak', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gwen Litvak
Senior Vice President, Public Policy