

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

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: C. Stone (Chair), C. Chavez, M. Zmuda

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: J. Hartnett, J. Cassman, S. van Hoffen, S. Petty, M. Bouchard, D. Hansel, S. Murphy, D. Seamans, S. Wong

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Charles Stone called the subcommittee meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

District Secretary Dora Seamans called the roll and confirmed all members were present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, commented on the pledge with a flag.

4. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2020

Motion/Second: Stone/Zmuda

Ayes: Chavez, Zmuda, Stone

Noes: None

Absent: None

5. APPROVE 2021 WPLP COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Motion/Second: Zmuda/Chavez

Ayes: Chavez, Zmuda, Stone

Noes: None

Absent: None

6. ATHERTON STATION CLOSURE

Sebastian Petty, Deputy Chief of Planning, provided an overview of the proposed actions which included the following: background information on the Town proposing the closure; the benefits of the station closure; the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and associated Maintenance and Use Agreement (MUA) between the JPB and Atherton; cost and funding; the addendum to PCEP Environmental Impact Report (EIR); and, completing the Title VI Equity Analysis.

Director Monique Zmuda stated that she received comments in opposition of this closure. Mr. Petty replied that the Town Council and majority of the public have stated support for the closure.

Public comment

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, commented on seeing the MOU before executive director signature/approval, the quad-gate at Watkins, funding and equity across the line, quiet zones, and questioned the cost estimate at Broadway.

Chair Stone asked about funding for the new four-quadrant gates. Mr. Petty replied that it would be funded through the San Mateo Transportation Authority and they would seek other grant sources. He replied that Broadway is a hold out rule station so rebuilding the station would include a grade separation.

Motion/Second: Chavez/Zmuda

Ayes: Chavez, Zmuda, Stone

Noes: None

Absent: None

7. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN ALTERNATIVE TO PLAN BAY AREA (PBA) 2050 STRATEGY EN7: "INSTITUTE TELECOMMUTING MANDATES FOR MAJOR OFFICE-BASED EMPLOYERS"

Seamus Murphy, Chief Communications Officer, stated that MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) approved a resolution requiring 60 percent of employees to telecommute if they worked for an employer with more than 25 workers. He stated that this resolution would support alternatives to reducing greenhouse emissions with a more flexible transit alternative. MTC has stated it will come back in December when Plan Bay Area comes back to the Commission with an alternative strategy that considers the comments heard.

Director Zmuda inquired if this resolution provides alternatives for taking comments and responses into account. Mr. Murphy replied that it does provide alternatives for MTC to take into account other modes of travel and include consideration of zero emission buses. Director Zmuda asked if Mr. Murphy had seen San Francisco County Transportation Authority's (SFCTA) response to this. Mr. Murphy replied that they have not, but noted that they have seen the resolution by BART.

Director Cindy Chavez suggested replacing "suppression" with "reduction" in the eighth paragraph of the JPB resolution. She suggested including the three JPA counties instead of "this county" in the eleventh paragraph and to indicate that equity is a core value of Caltrain and we are looking to exercise that core value. Jim Hartnett, Executive Director, suggested amending "this county" to "this region".

Director Chavez asked if the last sentence on the fifteenth paragraph of the resolution was intended to address the limits of Senate Bill (SB) 375. Mr. Murphy replied yes, JPB took into account VTA's suggestions in not taking greenhouse gas reductions with zero emission buses into consideration and the JPB should take credit for everything done to reduce emissions. She asked staff to consider a companion initiative to credit zero emission vehicle strategies to regional greenhouse gas emission reduction goals and the possible option of sending a separate letter indicating what the JPB thinks should be pursued. Mr. Murphy replied that he has not heard of MTC responding to the emissions language, but would put language in addressing this.

Public comment

Aleta Dupree, Oakland, commented on Plan Bay Area 2050 not being enforceable, focusing on bringing people to the railroad, finishing electrification, continuing work on equity (including Clipper START), telecommuting, businesses determining telecommute regardless, and ending disputes.

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, commented on alternatives GHG (green house gas emissions) based on good movements, providing incentives, including electrification, and providing choice rides to Caltrain riders (double ridership).

Director Zmuda asked when MTC would revise their resolution. Mr. Murphy replied that they would be heard in committees in November and the full commission in December.

Motion/Second: Chavez/Zmuda moved to approve the resolution as stated and amended (with flexibility to update it based on further feedback and any new information before it goes before the full Board).

Ayes: Chavez, Zmuda, Stone

Noes: None

Absent: None

8. RECEIVE STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Casey Fromson, Director of Government and Community Affairs, noted that there should be more answers on getting a COVID package in the future after the election. She commented on the educating federal and state members on the importance of Caltrain receiving funding and how long funding will last.

9. COVID RECOVERY PLANNING UPDATE - SERVICE PLANNING

Sebastian Petty, Deputy Chief of Planning provided the presentation, which included the following: context and background on crisis response, equity during the pandemic, change in weekday service levels, Caltrain finances, maintaining at least two trains per hour, shut down considerations, balancing passenger loads and social distancing, weekend recommendation, and next steps.

Director Zmuda asked when cost information would be available, and if the cost was prohibitive, would the JPB implement a severe reduction in service. Mr. Petty replied that they were estimating out the more severe reductions in service. He noted that the cost is not more than the current operating cost. Director Zmuda asked if they need existing staff for this medium level of service. Michelle Bouchard, Chief Operating Officer, replied that it does require less staff.

Director Chavez said suggested indicating the income breaks with regard to low-income riders in addition to housing qualifications. She suggested including equity benefits in regards to Caltrain in the presentation slides. Director Chavez asked if the price per ride is the same now as pre-COVID. Mr. Petty replied yes, the Board suspended scheduled fare increases and the pilot program began for reduced fares. Director Chavez requested information on riders using the reduced fare program. Mr. Petty replied that they were planning to have a full report on Clipper START at the December meeting.

Public comment

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, commented on the May 15th Board correspondence regarding restoring ridership like BART has done, following CDC guidelines for making the train safe, social distancing on the bombardier cars, and proposed a local every hour and two baby bullets.

Aleta Dupree, Oakland, supported two trains per hour, encouraging more riders with more frequency.

10. COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUESTS

There were none.

11. DATE/TIME OF NEXT REGULAR WPLP COMMITTEE MEETING: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020 AT 3:00 PM VIA ZOOM

12. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.