

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

**Minutes  
October 4 2012**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** J. Cisneros, M. Cohen, J. Deal, L. Kniss, A. Kalra, A. Lloyd, T. Nolan, K. Yeager

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** A. Tissier

**STAFF PRESENT:** J. Averill, J. Cassman, C. Cavitt, A. Chan, B. Fitzpatrick, G. Harrington, C. Harvey, R. Haskin, M. Lee, M. Martinez, N. McKenna, D. Miller, S. Murphy, M. Scanlon, M. Simon

Vice Chair Ken Yeager called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**Recognition of Legislative Delegation for Support of Caltrain**

Vice Chair Yeager said the Board recognized legislators at the August JPB meeting and at that time Congresswoman Anna Eshoo was not able to attend. There have been plenty of champions getting Caltrain Modernization where it is today, but none of this would have happened without Congresswoman Eshoo's leadership and support. Just as Caltrain was facing its most critical challenges, Congresswoman Eshoo called for the reset button on the project. Her plan for a blended system provided the reset button that everyone was so desperately looking for. Thanks to Congresswoman Eshoo the project evolved, communities are now protected, costs have been minimized, public support has turned around and, most importantly for Caltrain, resources were provided to create real mobility benefits for the Peninsula far earlier than anyone thought.

Congresswoman Eshoo thanked the Board for the recognition. She said she was doing her work on behalf of her constituents. Congresswoman Eshoo said what we are celebrating and will continue to celebrate for years to come is that we, in our time, did the right thing for the people we represent. She said this is a victory that was very difficult to come to and it took a very broad team from the various agencies, guts, courage and the real leadership of Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood.

Director Liz Kniss arrived at 10:11 a.m.

Congresswoman Eshoo said in all of her years of public service this result is the best example of people coming together for the good of the communities. She said it is unprecedented to have nine transit agencies agreeing with each other and to forge something that represents the best of consensus. She thanked Executive Director Michael Scanlon for his willingness to constantly see we could lead the way. Congresswoman Eshoo recognized her colleagues in the Northern California Congressional Delegation because many of them didn't have a dog in this fight, but

they were consistent on coming to the meetings in her office to see that a path was paved for success. She said this is an extraordinary example of what citizens can do together. Congresswoman Eshoo said she believes we are going to be the first in the country to demonstrate what can be done with the tax dollars that are collected and this is something that will not only be the pride of the region but stand as an extraordinary example for the American people.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, said the right of way for High Speed Rail (HSR) should not be restricted to two tracks as it will limit expansion especially with the increase in ridership. He urged caution with the transit village being proposed in San Carlos as it could limit track expansion.

Paul Jones, Atherton Rail Committee, said safety should be a primary concern with this Board. There are actions that should be taken, including the installation of quad gates, for solving the problem of hold-out stations. As the Board begins discussing additional tracks, as part of the blended system, safety will be more important to address.

Greg Conlon, Atherton Rail Committee, said the hold-out station is a big issue. The Rail Committee will be making some recommendations at the next Atherton council meeting for some interim safety steps.

Director Malia Cohen arrived at 10:22 a.m.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- a. Approval of Minutes of September 6, 2012

A motion (Cisneros/Nolan) to approve the consent calendar was approved unanimously.

### **REPORT OF THE CAC**

CAC Chair Paul Bendix said at its September 19 meeting the CAC received a presentation on social media from Communications Manager Jayme Ackemann.

### **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mr. Scanlon reported:

- Recently there have been significant operating issues. Starting September 19 through October 3 there have been eight incidences that have cascaded into major delays. On September 19 a near miss in San Mateo cascaded to 11 trains being late; on September 21 there was a major communications failure with the microwave transmission on San Bruno Mountain, which caused delays for 25 trains; on September 24, Train 101 had a mechanical problem that caused 33 trains to be delayed; on September 27, Train 267 hit an automobile that had encroached on the right of way and caused that delays to 13 trains; on October 1 there were two separate mechanical issues that cascaded to delays; on October 2 there was a near miss and trains were stopped; and finally, on October 3 at 5:15 p.m. there was an officer involved shooting in San Jose in the area north of the Diridon Station. He said it has probably been 20 years since he has been involved in this type of streak of incidences. Mr. Scanlon said this is not acceptable. While these

incidences are not related to one another many are actionable and staff can learn from them. Staff feels bad for the customers and they are rightfully upset. The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) did assist with a bus bridge last evening. He has met with senior staff and staff is debriefing TransitAmerica Inc. (TASI) to see what can be done better in these types of incidences. The communications to customers left something to be desired and announcements will now be made every 10 minutes.

Vice Chair Yeager asked about communicating to passengers and how this will be done. Mr. Scanlon said announcements will be made every 10 minutes at the stations. He said announcements are based on best information at the time. Mr. Scanlon said social media like Twitter and Facebook is being used. He said all available tools will be used to get the information out.

Director Kniss asked what is considered late. Mr. Scanlon said industry standard is anything after five minutes.

Director Kniss asked if the message can be put on the message board as to when the train will be coming.

Director Art Lloyd said the Capitol Corridor has the full announcement on their message signs.

Deputy CEO Chuck Harvey said the station signs and public announcement system can be manually manipulated by a clerk either to the entire system or particular stations. He said a new predicative arrival system will be installed by next year.

Director Cohen asked if there are going to be any details on the officer involved shooting. Legal Counsel David Miller said the San Jose Police Department (SJPD) is handling the investigation and staff doesn't have any information. Mr. Scanlon said any information about the shooting will come from SJPD and information on how it affected the system will come from Public Information staff.

Director Tom Nolan said he appreciates Mr. Scanlon's candor on these issues.

**Recognition of Legislative Delegation for Support of Caltrain (continued)**

Vice Chair Yeager recognized Senator Leland Yee for his vote in support of funding the California High Speed Rail Project. He said the legislation provides \$705 million to the Caltrain Modernization Project which is a critical program to bring Peninsula commuter rail service into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Vice Chair Yeager said the final word on whether Caltrain Modernization would move forward came when the Senate voted on Senate Bill (SB) 1029 in August. He said Senator Yee provided a critical vote when there were no votes to spare. Vice Chair Yeager said much has been said on courageous votes and Senator Yee showed as much courage as anyone casting a vote for the future of California.

Senator Yee said he appreciates the recognition from the Board. There still needs to be a lot of vetting on the project and a lot of issues still are not resolved, but this was a tremendous bill for the Peninsula. He said modernization of the train service for the area is necessary.

## **Report of the Executive Director (continued)**

Mr. Scanlon reported:

- Key Caltrain Performance Statistics
  - Monthly Performance Statistics – August 2012 compared to August 2011
    - Total Ridership was 1,350,537, an increase of 7.8 percent.
    - Average Weekday Ridership was 48,634, an increase of 7.6 percent.
    - Total Revenue was \$5,969,488, an increase of 12.1 percent.
    - On-time Performance was 93.3 percent, an increase of 1.2 percent.
    - Caltrain Shuttle Ridership was 8,339, an increase of 23.5 percent.
  - Year-to-date Performance Statistics – August 2012 compared to August 2011
    - Total Ridership was 2,656,507, an increase of 9.8 percent.
    - Average Weekday Ridership was 48,621, an increase of 8.9 percent.
    - Total Revenue was \$11,805,845, an increase of 14.4 percent.
    - On-time Performance was 93.4 percent, an increase of 1.5 percent.
    - Caltrain Shuttle Ridership was 7,923, an increase of 22.1 percent.
- The Bicycle Advisory Committee met on September 20 and received a presentation on the Bicycle Access and Parking Plan. Their next meeting is November 13.
- Service was increased on October 1 with six additional weekday trains and additional stops were added. The four shoulder trains that were cut last year were reinstated, two new afternoon peak trains were added, stops were added at either Sunnyvale or Palo Alto on 12 trains and Train 324 was changed to a gallery car.
- This weekend will be very challenging for transit operators with a number of events including Fleet Week, the San Francisco Giants playoff game, America's Cup, Hardly Strictly Blue Grass, 49er and Stanford football. Staff has flown in two locomotive engineers from the East Coast to help with the demand in service, but any extra service cannot be provided.
- The Rail Operations Control System was implemented in September with no significant issues. A period of 600 hours of testing will begin soon.
- Special service:
  - Giants ridership was up 12 percent for the year, carrying an additional 576,000 riders.
  - Special stops were made at Stanford Stadium on September 8 and 15 and averaged 3,000 additional riders, a 60 percent increase over last year.
  - One extra local train was provided for the Opera in the Park on Saturday, September 15. Ridership was over 4,000, a 37 percent increase over last year.
- The pile driving has been completed for the San Bruno Grade Separation Project.
- The San Mateo County Transit District along with the City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) co-hosted the California Transportation Commission (CTC) on September 26 and 27. At the CTC meeting on September 27 Caltrain was awarded \$40 million for the Communications Based Overlay Signal System/Positive Train Control System and \$9 million was awarded for bridge reconstruction in San Mateo.
- In the reading file is the new timetable, *Track the Fun* brochure, Safety and Security Report and a flyer on the Holiday Train.

Caltrain Modernization Program

Executive Officer, Caltrain Modernization Program Marian Lee introduced Ben Tripousis, the new Regional Director for California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA).

Ms. Lee said staff is working with the member partners to obtain their share of funding for the advanced signal system. She said staff has prioritized efforts for the electrification component and getting the environmental process moving. A project team is being set up to complete this task. Ms. Lee said last week Mr. Scanlon and CHSRA Chief Executive Officer Jeff Morales met to discuss advancing Caltrain electrification and the meeting went well. There was also a discussion of putting new agreements in place that would set the right policy framework for delivering the project that has been defined as the increment of the blended system. Ms. Lee said she would be back in November to provide more updates.

Ms. Lee said staff is continuing to assess project delivery options and the viability of alternative approaches, such as design/build versus the traditional design/bid/build, and continue to assess the potential time savings and money that can be achieved by an alternative delivery approach. She said with the blended system, beyond electrification to support HSR, staff is continuing the planning efforts to define what those additive improvements are.

Ms. Lee said staff is in the final stretch of two current planning efforts that she has been updating the Board on the last few months. She said gate-down time and traffic analysis preliminary findings have been shared with city and county staff. Ms. Lee said staff will be reviewing the comments received and then will share the information in public venues to obtain public input before putting the report into draft and final form.

Ms. Lee said, as noted at the last meeting, staff held a Caltrain Modernization Local Policymaker meeting on September 18. The meeting was chaired by JPB Chair Adrienne Tissier. This was a meeting requested by some of the cities to explore the idea of creating a venue for local policymakers to be more intimately involved with the program. Ms. Lee said there was a good turnout and good consensus was achieved. City representatives asked Caltrain staff to facilitate regular meetings, which will start monthly. The group will be made up of representatives from each of the cities and counties along the corridor and the primary focus of this group will be sharing information. Ms. Lee said they talked a lot about the importance of sharing accurate information versus speculation and interpretation and for the venue to be very focused on allowing the cities and counties to express their concerns. She said the next meeting will be in November.

Ms. Lee said there is an upcoming meeting of the nine funding parties to the regional Memorandum of Understanding. She said they have various roles and responsibilities and fiduciary responsibilities that need a certain level of oversight on the program. Ms. Lee said there will be a kick off meeting at the staff level on October 15 to discuss expectations, rules and responsibilities. She said it is her expectation this group will be meeting regularly and providing a level of oversight that is appropriate.

Vice Chair Yeager asked if there are any reports on how the three member agencies are doing on their contributions for electrification. Mr. Scanlon said the San Mateo County Transportation Authority and VTA will be taking the action tonight.

Executive Officer, Planning and Development April Chan said the San Francisco County Transportation Authority is scheduled to take action this month.

Director Nolan, in reference to the Safety and Security Report, asked if there is anyone working with the homeless encampments to find alternative living conditions. Deputy CEO Gigi Harrington said there is a multi-jurisdictional team that works together when an encampment is broken down. She said she will get more information on the team and will bring back information next month.

Director Cohen said the homeless population is something she deals with daily and asked what social agencies staff partners with when a homeless encampment is broken down.

Mr. Scanlon said it will be researched and emailed to the board.

#### Public Comment

Adina Levin, Friends of Caltrain, said with all the mechanical issues, any timely information that can be shared with passengers would be greatly appreciated. She asked if staff will be going to the station platforms to hear the audio as some locations are very difficult to hear. She asked if there was mental illness involved in the trespasser yesterday and have the police been trained on dealing with mental illness. Ms. Levin thanked staff for switching the consist for Train 324. Mr. Scanlon said the sound level is a battle between the neighbors and the customers. He said the police receive extensive training on interacting with persons suffering from mental illness.

Roland LeBrun, San Jose, said the challenge with extra passengers is a commercial opportunity. He said he is a regular commuter on VTA and if anything happens on their light rail or buses he immediately receives a notification and again receives one when the delay is fixed. Mr. LeBrun said mechanical failures are a big problem and need to look at whether the issue is preventative maintenance or is new rolling stock needed. He asked why the engineering specifications for the Caltrain grade crossings were removed from the website this morning.

#### **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR RICH NAPIER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CITY/COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

Vice Chair Yeager presented a Resolution of Appreciation to Mr. Napier on the occasion of his retirement as executive director of C/CAG at the end of the year.

#### Public Comment

Jim Bigelow, Redwood City/San Mateo County Chambers of Commerce, said he has worked with Mr. Napier for most of his years at C/CAG. He said Mr. Napier is a complete package by taking all the transit systems and being an equal interest in making sure all the systems get funding. Mr. Bigelow said Mr. Napier is quite savvy with working for 20 cities and the county. He said the San Mateo business community is extremely happy with what he has done for the community and residences of the county.

A motion (Cisneros/Nolan) to pass the Resolution of Appreciation to Rich Napier was approved unanimously.

Mr. Napier thanked the Board for the recognition. He felt like he was part of a team with staff and leadership at Caltrain. As a regular rider the trains are packed and this is a business model more people need to look at for a permanent source of funding.

**ACCEPTANCE OF STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES FOR  
AUGUST 2012**

Ms. Harrington said revenue is over budget by \$1 million and there is \$1.2 million in savings on the expense side. Last week and year-to-date fuel is \$3.21 per gallon and have received \$74,000 from the bank for September.

Vice Chair Yeager said he is nervous about next year's budget and partner contributions and asked if there were any updates. Mr. Scanlon said last year Ms. Harrington rolled forward surplus revenue money. Ms. Harrington said the auditors have left and as soon as she has a clean set of Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 financial statements she will look at FY2014 and begin a discussion at the staff level about next year's operating budget and report back to the Board.

A motion (Cisneros/Lloyd) to accept the August 2012 statement was approved unanimously.

Director Kniss left at 11:21 a.m.

**AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF A LEASE ADDENDUM TO EXTEND LEASE OF  
WAREHOUSE AT 4000 CAMPBELL AVENUE IN MENLO PARK FOR A PERIOD OF  
THREE YEARS FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$660,252**

Manager, Real Estate and Property Development Brian Fitzpatrick said this item is to execute a lease addendum to a lease of a wayside warehouse facility. He said staff feels they have received a good rate on the facility and recommend Board approval.

A motion (Lloyd/Nolan) to execute a lease addendum to extend the lease of the warehouse at 4000 Campbell Avenue in Menlo Park for a period of three years for a total cost of \$660,252 was approved unanimously.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

State Update

Director, Government and Community Affairs Seamus Murphy said Congress and the State Legislature are out of session.

Director Kniss returned at 11:26 a.m.

The governor signed several bills last weekend and one bill staff has been working on is Senate Bill 1339. It would allow the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to authorize a pilot program to mandate employers with over 50 employees to participate in the Federal Transit Bike and Pedestrian Benefits Program. He said this is a bill staff has supported in the past because it does have the potential to incentivize transit riders. Mr. Murphy said related to this issue, staff is hoping for the passage of a Tax Extenders Package that would bring the transit commute benefit back up to parity with the benefit that drivers receive.

Mr. Murphy said another item of interest is Cap and Trade because it has great potential to fund transit operations and capital improvements. He said the governor has identified as much as \$1 billion in the current fiscal year. Mr. Murphy said staff has been working closely with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the California Transit Association (CTA) to advocate that public transportation be included as an eligible expenditure. He said legislation was passed this session that does add public transportation to the list of eligible recipients of those funds. Mr. Murphy said the amount of funding available for this program is unknown, but it is likely to be one of the more flexible pots of funding. He said there will be a lot of competition for this funding and staff is participating with a newly formed group, the Transportation Coalition for Livable Communities, and will be advocating as CARB decides specifically where revenues will go and what percentages of the overall revenues will go to different sectors.

Vice Chair Yeager said he is the Bay Area representative on CARB and he wants to see some of the money from Cap and Trade go to existing agencies rather than putting money into new programs.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

No discussion.

#### **BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS**

Director Jerry Deal said he attended the American Public Transportation Association's annual meeting in Seattle and one panel discussion he attended was on the future of HSR. He said the panel felt the blended system led to a more positive discussion. He said the name HSR is negative for suburban areas and maybe a more appropriate name would be High Performance Rail.

#### **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT**

No report.

#### **DATE/TIME/PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 1, 2012, 10 a.m. at San Mateo County Transit District Administrative Building, Bacciocco Auditorium, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070.

Adjourned at 11:31 a.m.