

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)  
PENINSULA CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS BOARD (JPB)  
SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING  
Bacciocco Auditorium, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos CA 94070**

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2021**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** A. Brandt (Vice Chair), P. Flautt, R. Jaques (Alternate), L. Klein, P. Leung, JP. Torres, D. Tuzman, E. Shapiro, B. Shaw (Chair)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** R. Kutler, M. Pagee (Alternate), N. Mathur (Alternate)

**STAFF PRESENT:** T. Bartholomew, H. Chan, J. Navarrete, J. Navarro, R. Scarpino

Due to COVID-19, this meeting was conducted as a teleconference pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, which suspends certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Chair Brian Shaw called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW CAC MEMBERS AND ALTERNATE**

- Introduction of New CAC Member, Emilia Shapiro, San Mateo County
- Introduction of New Alternate CAC Member, Melody Pagee, San Mateo County

R. Jaques joined the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2021**

Motion/Second: Flautt / Klein

Ayes: Brandt, Leung, Shaw, Torres, Tuzman

Abstain: Shapiro

Absent: Kutler

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, via Zoom Q&A, requested closed captioning to be enabled. He then appreciated the effort in capturing the accuracy of the CAC Meeting Minutes and suggested the Board Meeting Minutes reflect the same. He then stated that the timetable is an issue and heading in the wrong direction. He then stated that Caltrain is not working toward speeds over 79 MPH trains. He also stated that although Caltrain is running more trains, there are less trains running during peak hours. He mentioned a possible breach in full funding agreement with the FTA regarding capacity during peak hours.

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, via Zoom Q&A, referenced the correspondence packet regarding Member Tuzman's Editorial in the San Mateo Daily Journal titled Assembly Bill 1401: Rest in Smog. Jeff stated that smog and carbon emissions need to go down. He then stated that it is difficult to view the video archives on the Granicus server and requested staff to make them downloadable for easier viewing. Lastly, Jeff requested the correspondence packets be made in color as is to the Board to better read.

### **CHAIRPERS'S REPORT**

Chair Brian Shaw reported that he and the Vice Chair Adrian Brandt met with staff and stated that the MTC Fare Study will be presented to the Board prior to the CAC in October. Chair Shaw stated that it was an MTC decision to present to the Board prior to the CAC.

### **COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

Vice Chair Adrian Brandt stated referred to Roland's comment regarding increased travel time end to end and suggested the reason is due to increased dwell times are up with scheduled padding. He encourages staff to lessen dwell time padding. He then referred to Jeff Carter's comment regarding public meetings on Granicus and suggested staff to make the recorded meetings downloadable. Lastly, Vice Chair Brandt mentioned that although the CAC will not receive the Integrated Fare Recommendation Study prior to the Board, he recommended everyone visit [SeamlessBayArea.org](http://SeamlessBayArea.org) and view the Transformation Action Plan. He said that it may be a good preview to the presentation that will be given in October.

Member David Tuzman advised the committee and the public that September is Transit month in the Bay Area and that it is encouraged to share Transit experiences on social media. He stated that BART and Caltrain are offering discounted fares on Clipper and encouraged former riders to come back to Transit.

Member Patrick Flautt shared that as members of public facing committees, the best good that can be done is to be visible in public advocating for the goals of the committees and commissions they are a part of. He thanked Member Tuzman for writing his opinions on Assembly Bill 1401.

Member Patricia Leung shared feedback regarding the new schedule and stated that there is not a good Baby Bullet connection to Gilroy, increasing travel time to Gilroy. She then encouraged members of the committee and the public to provide their feedback on the VTA BART Silicon Valley Extension Project Phase 2. Lastly, she thanked the staff for making riding the trains feel back to normal and comfortable.

Alternate Member Rob Jaques referred to Vice Chair Brandt's comment and stated that the Transformation Action Plan will be presented to MTC and will include recommendations regarding the Fare Integration Taskforce work; however it is separate from the Blue Ribbon Taskforce. He then shared that MUNI is accepting feedback on service changes, including some routes that link with Caltrain.

Public Comments:

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, via Zoom Q&A, shared his disappointment regarding the CAC not receiving the Integrated Fare Study prior to the Board. He then stated that dwell time padding may lead to train early departure and suggested staff take a closer look at tightening up dwell times. Jeff then referred to the Work Plan regarding Go Pass cost per ride factors requested in June of 2019 and requested an update on Go Pass usage.

Member David Tuzman called in and thanked Member Flautt and member of the public, Jeff for their comments on his article and encouraged everyone to read it to learn more about putting a stop to incentivizing car travel. He talked about his recent experience with riding the train. He then shared his disappointment with the Fare Integration Study going to the Board prior to CAC without committee comments.

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, via Zoom Q&A, stated that closed captioning had not been turned on as of yet. He reminded staff that it is a Federal ADA requirement and that if it is not enabled by the end of the meeting, he would submit a citation for an ADA violation. He then stated that he is working on requesting staff to implement a Baby Bullet to Gilroy. Lastly, he stated that there will be a Fare Integration Study presentation to the Finance Committee on September 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m.

**RAIL SAFETY EDUCATION & SUICIDE PREVENTION UPDATE**

Tasha Bartholomew, Manager, Communications, presented the Rail Safety Education & Suicide Prevention Update.

The full presentation can be found on [caltrain.com](http://caltrain.com)

Committee Comments:

Vice Chair Brandt stated that in order to fix a problem it needs to be understood and thanked Ms. Bartholomew for the break down in her presentation. He then asked how the role of the cameras, in Palo Alto, play in the effort to prevent suicides. Mr. Joe Navarro, Deputy Chief, Rail Operations, responded that the cameras work. They detect sizable motion and alert the proper authorities that notify the Police. He stated that Caltrain shuts down service so that the Police may remove the trespassers from the tracks approximately three times a month.

Member Emilia Shapiro thanked Ms. Bartholomew for the presentation and everything staff is doing for suicide prevention.

Member Tuzman thanked Ms. Bartholomew for the presentation. He then asked whether her team has statistics on the San Mateo County Sherriff's Department intervening with attempted suicides or success rates. Ms. Bartholomew responded that she would follow-up, through the CAC Secretary, with further data.

Public Comments:

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, via Zoom Q&A, thanked the CAC Secretary for enabling the closed captioning. Roland then asked staff to stop referring to persons that have been fatality stricken on the tracks as trespassers, just as Supervisor David Pine has also requested. He then stated that there is no engineering at Hillsdale to stop passengers from getting hit by trains. He then asked what is being done to prevent vehicle strikes.

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, via Zoom Q&A, mentioned that Caltrain is not the cause of the fatality on the tracks. He thanked Ms. Bartholomew for the presentation and staff's efforts with added security and suicide prevention. Jeff then asked for staff's Safety and Security report that was once provided at the Board meetings, be revived. Lastly, Jeff mentioned that there is a law that states that people are not to enter a railroad crossing unless it can be cleared and are in violation if not adhered to.

Vice Chair Brandt recited the Vehicle code SVC 2256 section B.

### **SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO CALTRAIN STATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE**

Hubert Chan, Project Manager, presented an Update on Caltrain Electrification Update.

The full presentation can be found on [caltrain.com](http://caltrain.com)

#### Committee Comments:

Chair Shaw mentioned that he is looking forward to the completion of the project and the agency addressing the hold-out rule problem there.

Member Larry Klein asked where the project stands with original budget versus the final cost of the project and asked for what sources funded those budget changes. Mr. Chan stated that he would follow-up with a response to the difference in budget. As far as the funding sources, he stated that it is a mix of federal funding and funding from the city of South San Francisco. He stated that he would follow-up with exact numbers through the CAC Secretary.

Member Jaques thanked Mr. Chan for the presentation. He then requested staff to include funding information on future project presentations. He asked Mr. Chan regarding pedestrian access and Mr. Chan explained the controlled crossing.

Vice Chair Brandt stated that he is pleased with the pedestrian connectivity more or less at grade to the downtown. He mentioned that he likes the center platform boarding for several reasons. He then asked for further details on the passenger informational systems and Mr. Chan responded that they are compatible with the current generation of systems.

Member Jean-Paul Torres thanked Mr. Chan for the presentations and echoed Vice Chair Brandt's comment on center boarding. Member Torres stated that it is great for access. He also appreciates the connectivity to downtown South San Francisco.

Public Comments:

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, via Zoom Q&A, shared that the problem, previous to project completion, was that the hold-out was communicated via radios and explained how it had failed and almost caused several strikes. He then questioned how safety can possibly be improved without passing tracks and how the station is ADA compliant without level boarding. He then went slide by slide with his disappointments.

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, via Zoom Q&A, shared that he also likes the center platform at South San Francisco. He hopes that, one day, the station could have level boarding.

### **VEHICLES ON THE TRACKS**

Rob Scarpino, Director Rail Maintenance, presented Vehicles on the Tracks.

The full presentation can be found on [caltrain.com](http://caltrain.com)

Committee Comments:

Vice Chair Brandt stated that downward trend may be due to the pandemic and the efforts made in Palo Alto. He then stated that 2021 incidents happened mostly at night and may be due to drivers following their GPS during low lighting times of day. Vice Chair suggested installing gates across the tracks instead of quad gates to address the real problem of driving on the tracks.

Public Comments:

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, via Zoom Q&A, stated that quad gates are beneficial for several reasons. He stated that they are needed for the High Speed Rail and give the cities an opportunity to implement quiet zones.

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, via Zoom Q&A, stated that grade separations are costly and although they are quoted as transit improvements, they are actually road improvements. Because of that reason, he would like to see more highway funds going toward grade separation improvements.

### **STAFF REPORT UPDATE**

Joe Navarro, Deputy Chief, Rail Operations reported:  
(The full report can be found on [caltrain.com](http://caltrain.com))

#### **On-time Performance (OTP) –**

- **August:** The August 2021 OTP was 94.3% compared to 95.7% for August 2020.

- **Mechanical Delays** – In August 2021 there were 485 minutes of delay due to mechanical issues compared to 639 minutes in August 2020.
- **Vehicle Strike** – There was one vehicle strike on August 17, resulting in a fatality.
- **Trespasser Strikes** – There were three trespasser strikes on August 2, 25 and 26, resulting in fatalities.
- **July:** The July 2021 OTP was 90.2% compared to 96.4% for July 2020.
  - **Trespasser Strikes** – There were two trespasser strikes on July 9 and 23, one resulting in a fatality.

Mr. Navarro stated that he has been hearing a lot about run times and challenged the committee to submit their estimate on pad or recovery time of runtime to the CAC Secretary, Patrice. He stated that next month he will share the exact runtime and compare it to the submissions. Joe then stated that he has made a recommendation for Gilroy service. He then shared and explained the monthly ridership trend charts which included percentage changes. Joe then shared that regarding electrification, the contractor is being held to their contracted windows of work and that no single tracking will occur during peak service. He then shared that staff will report on some construction challenges with electrification regarding grade crossing two speed check solution. He stated that in December, staff will share a construction schedule for March to switch over the signaling system. Mr. Navarro then stated that staff will bring back the Safety and Security report. Lastly, he shared that staff is working on requiring vaccination or regular testing and will report back with the policy soon.

Public Comments:

Roland Lebrun, via Zoom Q&A, asked Mr. Navarro to clarify and explain what recommendation was made for the Gilroy service. Mr. Navarro stated that he is not able to share the details, however, is an advocate and will follow-up with this group.

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, via Zoom Q&A, appreciated the ridership chart and requested it be included on the CAC webpage or Board webpage. Mr. Navarro stated that he is working on better ways to access the information.

Committee Comment:

Member Tuzman notified the group that there is belated Measure RR passage train party on September 26, 2021.

## **JPB CAC Work Plan**

### October 20, 2021

- Hillsdale Station Obstacles

- MTC Fair Study (**tentative**)
- Southeast Rail Station Study

November 17, 2021

- Brown Act Training
- Code Of Conduct
- Clipper Data Availability

December 15, 2021

- Customer Experience Completions & Recommendations
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Suggested Items:

- Go Pass cost per ride factors – requested by Chair, Brian Shaw on 6/19/19
- San Mateo County Climate Action Plan – requested by Member Rosalind Kutler on 10/16/19
- MTC Means-Based Discount Fare program update
- Caltrain connections with other agencies – requested by Member Rosalind Kutler on 12/18/19
- Update on grade crossing pilot six months after installation – requested by Member, Patrick Flautt on 12/18/19
- Summary video of the CAC meetings by the Social Media Officer – requested by Chair, Brian Shaw on 12/18/19
- Operating Costs – requested by Member Adrian Brandt on 2/13/20
- Rail Corridor Use Policy – requested by Member Anna Dagum on 10/21/20
- Industry Safe Functionality
- Regional Fare Integration Task Force – requested by Member David Tuzman on 6/1/21
- Blue Ribbon Task Force

**DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

October 20, 2021 at 5:40 p.m., San Mateo County Transit District Administrative Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Bacciocco Auditorium, 1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA.

Adjourned at 8:14 pm