



## Memorandum

**Date:** March 2015

**To:** CalMod Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG)

**From:** Marian Lee, CalMod Executive Officer

**Re:** **March 2015 CalMod E-Update**

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This memo provides a brief update on key CalMod activities since the February Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG) in-person meeting.

### **Procurement Process**

#### *Electrification Infrastructure*

On February 27, 2015, the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Design-Build contract was issued to the six pre-qualified teams. The public can view a copy of the Electrification RFP here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ogcdb5t2jy09k5c/AACiqbQvfhJ87P9UKJAbg1Qza?n=118875730>

On March 17, 2015, a pre-proposal conference was held and over 70 individuals from all six pre-qualified teams participated. On March 18, 2015, Caltrain hosted an event for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) interested in the electrification contract. On March 22, 2015, the first amendment to the RFP was issued. There will be additional amendments. The JPB is scheduled to award the Design-Build contract in fall 2015.

#### *Electric Multiple Units (High-Performance Vehicles)*

Based on requests from stakeholders, Caltrain and HSR staff spent the last several months exploring different vehicle options for Caltrain that would support shared platforms with HSR trains in the future. To vet different vehicle modification options, Caltrain/HSR staff conducted technical workshops and informal meetings with carbuilders. Information on this effort will be presented to the LPMG at the April meeting.

The RFP for vehicles has been postponed until the vehicle compatibility analysis and bike/seats/bathroom analysis is complete and a public policy discussion has taken place. JPB policy action on the vehicle RFP is expected in summer 2015.

## **Tree Survey**

Trees are one of the most sensitive issues for cities and community members. Caltrain is conducting a detailed tree survey along the Caltrain corridor from San Francisco to Tamien station in San Jose. The work is being conducted by HortScience.

HortScience will be identifying trees with physical markers. Trees outside the Caltrain right-of-way will be noted but not marked. This tree survey **WILL NOT** identify which trees will be removed or pruned as part of the Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project (PCEP). The purpose of the survey is to create a detailed tree inventory on the corridor. The survey is expected to be complete by summer 2015.

Following completion of the tree survey, Caltrain staff will work closely with each county and city, including local arborists, on the development of the tree avoidance, minimization and replacement plan.

If you are asked by residents for more information, please provide them with our contact information: (650) 508-6499; [calmod@caltrain.com](mailto:calmod@caltrain.com).

## **Advanced Signal System (CBOSS PTC) Project Update**

The CBOSS PTC installation team continues to make progress and the Data Communications Subsystem (conduit and fiber optic cable) is complete in many places along 51+ mile corridor. There continues to be work to connect the main fiber optic backbone to the wayside infrastructure.

Over the last several months, the CBOSS PTC team has increased testing of the system where the infrastructure work has been completed. The tests are usually done at night to avoid disruption of regular train service and properly record the results. Through the end of 2015, to ensure the system is functioning properly, there will be a variety of tests, some noticeable to the public.

Caltrain staff will continue to coordinate with city/county staff on CBOSS PTC activities and provide notifications to communities. There was one new complaint since the meeting in February.

## **CalMod Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG) Summary Meeting Notes for February 26, 2015**

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### **Summary Notes**

The purpose of these notes is to capture key discussion items and actions identified for subsequent meetings.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** C. Wiest (Atherton), C. Stone (Belmont), C. Lentz (Brisbane), J. Root (Burlingame), C. Clark (Mountain View), Pat Burt (Palo Alto), Ron Collins (San Carlos), J. Matthews (San Mateo), K. Matsumoto (South San Francisco), J. Davis (Sunnyvale)

**CHAIR:** A. Tissier (JPB Representative)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** R. Cline (Menlo Park), W. Lee (Millbrae), B. Pierce (Redwood City), A. Kalra (San Jose), K. Ibarra (San Bruno), G. Gillett (San Francisco), J. Matthews (Santa Clara)

**VACANT SEAT(S):** San Francisco County, San Mateo County, Santa Clara County

**CALMOD TEAM PRESENT:** D. Chung, D. Couch, C. Fromson, M. Lee

### **JPB Staff Report**

- After the FEIR was certified by the JPB on January 8, 2015 and staff filed the Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse, there was a required 30-day period for legal challenge. There is one legal challenge from the Town of Atherton with Transdef and Community Coalition on High-Speed Rail. This is now a confidential legal matter that will be addressed in closed sessions at JPB meetings and required court proceedings.
- The CBOSS PTC project continues to make progress on both the installation and testing work. In order to test the system, trains are operating at night with horns sounded at at-grade crossings. Caltrain is coordinating with city / county staff and notifying impacted communities. One noise complaint was received since last month.
- The Caltrain Commuter Coalition (C3), spearheaded by the Bay Area Council (BAC), Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG), and San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA) and comprised of Bay Area employers focused on advancing regional, state and federal policies that promote the improvement of the Caltrain corridor, had their second meeting in January. U.S. Reps. Anna Eshoo and Jackie Speier were the keynote speakers. The group will continue to meet on a quarterly basis to discuss their advocacy and support for Caltrain modernization and beyond.

## Information/Discussion Items

### Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project Quarterly Update

Dave Couch, the Project Delivery Director, provided the quarterly update of project delivery activities. The update highlighted the coordination that has taken place to get the RFP for the Electrification Design-Build contract ready for release on February 27, 2015.

The bulk of the update provided the summary results of the online survey aimed at receiving feedback from the public on how they use the Caltrain system and their thoughts on seat, bikes and bathrooms on board in the new EMUs to be procured.

Nearly 4,200 people participated in the online survey and when asked to rank the most important aspect of their current riding experiences, passengers rated seating availability as their top priority, standing room next, followed by bike storage, bathrooms, and luggage storage. This is not a statistically valid methodology. It provides a sense of riders' preferences. A full copy of the online results of the survey is available here: [www.caltrain.com/emu](http://www.caltrain.com/emu)

*LPMG members' key comments include the following:*

- *Several members asked questions about ADA issues as they relate to bathrooms, access and potential seat displacement. (Caltrain staff noted that the FRA requires onboard bathrooms to be ADA accessible but there is not a requirement to have a bathroom onboard. Staff double-checked the ADA access to bathrooms in the current fleet. Part of the existing fleet has five fully-compliant bathrooms per train and the other part has one ADA compliant bathroom per train.)*
- *Several members asked questions about the potential trade-offs (including cost implications) of having additional bathrooms and bike facilities at stations instead of on the train. Several members expressed support for more wayside bike options and bathrooms at stations. One member said bathrooms at stations is a safety/security concern.*
- *One member asked about available technology to count passengers and provide real-time data about train capacity to help inform customer schedule choices. (Caltrain staff noted that the EMUs will have electronic passenger count technology and the Caltrain Strategic Plan has a goal of increasing public access to Caltrain data.)*

*Public Speakers:*

- *A public speaker stated the EMU survey had a bias because more bike riders filled out the survey; in London you can only bring folding bikes onboard; and Caltrain should release the names of the car builders that participated in the Request for*

*Information. (Note: The survey has bias because it was not developed to be statistically valid – it was designed for Caltrain to get a sense of rider preferences. The names of the carbuilders that participated in the RFI process: Bombardier, CNR, CSR, Hyundai Rotem, Stadler, and Sumitomo)*

- *A public speaker stated that the land use pattern in London is different than it is here which influences the first and last mile needs. The speaker thought it would be helpful to have information about the costs associated with bike options for onboard and wayside. The speaker also stated that a bike bias in the survey provides better information about potential interest in alternatives to onboard storage.*

### Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project Design Build RFP

The LPMG received a presentation on the action taken on February 5, 2015, by the JPB to authorize the release of the Electrification Design-Build Request for Proposals (RFP) to the six prequalified proposer teams. The Board usually does not take action on a project at this stage but given the unique nature and magnitude of the Project, Board action addressed several critical issues that were important to communities along the corridor. Information on the Board item can be found here:

[http://www.caltrain.com/Assets/\\_Agendas+and+Minutes/JPB/Board+of+Directors/Agendas/2015/2015-02-05+JPB+BOD+Agenda+Packet.pdf](http://www.caltrain.com/Assets/_Agendas+and+Minutes/JPB/Board+of+Directors/Agendas/2015/2015-02-05+JPB+BOD+Agenda+Packet.pdf)

*LPMG members' key comments include the following:*

- *One member asked about the status of determining the location of a traction power facility in Burlingame. (Caltrain staff responded that they have been coordinating with Burlingame staff and they are still doing the technical analysis on the different options preferred by the City and Caltrain.)*
- *Few members asked clarifying questions about deferring electrifying storage tracks at the 4<sup>th</sup> and King yard and the look of the alternative poles designs. (Caltrain staff responded the deferment of some activities at 4<sup>th</sup> and King would not affect capacity or project needs and images of the alternative poles were available in the Final Environmental Impact Report.)*
- *One member expressed interest in the potential local uses for the fiber optic cable that is being installed as part of the CBOSS PTC project. (Caltrain staff responded there is a study underway to assess the marketing and revenue potential of the dark fiber. Local city interests as those expressed by the City of Brisbane will inform the analysis.)*

## **Public Comments**

- *A public speaker shared a video about technology being used in UK that uses radar to detect obstacles in at-grade crossings. The public speaker also express concern about single tracking in areas south of Tamien and use of center poles supporting trains going at high speeds. (Note: The video was functioning but the audio was not working. At the request of the speaker, a follow up email with a link to the video was sent to LPMG members.)*

## **LPMG Member Comments/Requests**

- None