



JPB Board of Directors
Meeting of October 6, 2022

Correspondence as of September 30, 2022

Subject

- 1 City of Millbrae Planning Commission Public Hearing
- 2 San Mateo Grade Crossing Separation Project Support
- 3 Letter of support to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Burlingame -
Broadway Grade Separation Project
- 4 Blossom Hill Cal Train Station
- 5 San Mateo Gate Down Time



City of Millbrae

621 Magnolia Avenue, Millbrae, CA 94030

ANNE OLIVA
Mayor

GINA PAPAN
Vice Mayor

ANDERS FUNG
Councilmember

REUBEN D. HOLOBER
Councilmember

ANN SCHNEIDER
Councilmember

September 23, 2022

RE: 2040 General Plan, Downtown and El Camino Real Specific Plan, Zoning Code and Map Amendments, and Environmental Impact Report Planning Commission Public Hearing

On Thursday, October 6, 2022 the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to review the Millbrae 2040 General Plan Update, the Downtown and El Camino Real Specific Plan, and related Zoning Code and Map Amendments. The Planning Commission will consider making a recommendation to the Millbrae City Council to (1) adopt the Millbrae 2040 General Plan Update, Downtown and El Camino Real Specific Plan, related Zoning Code Amendments, and Updated Zoning Map; and (2) certify the Environmental Impact Report.

The meeting will be in a hybrid format, with participants able to attend in person at the Millbrae City Council Chambers, 621 Magnolia Avenue, or via videoconference on Zoom.

Once it is available, both the meeting agenda and the Zoom information will be posted on the following link: <https://www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/10994/23?curm=10&cury=2022>

The plans are available online at <https://www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/departments-services/community-development/planning-division/general-plan-housing-element-and-dt-ecr-specific-plan>

Please direct any comments or questions to Nestor Guevara, Associate Planner at 650-259-2335 and nguevara@ci.millbrae.ca.us



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ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 26, 2022

Mr. Douglas Gascon
Office of Policy and Planning
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W38–212
Washington, DC 20590

RE: City of San Mateo "Reconnecting San Mateo" Rail Grade Crossing Separation Project

Dear Mr. Gascon,

On behalf of the Peninsula Joint Powers Board (Caltrain), I am writing to offer our strong support for the City of San Mateo's (City) Reconnecting San Mateo Rail Grade Crossing Separation Project (Project) federal grant assistance application.

Caltrain is the seventh largest and most efficiently run commuter rail system in the country. It spans 77.3 miles and 32 stations, including one station connected to the San Francisco Airport by Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART). Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated disruption to transportation systems worldwide, Caltrain had an average mid-weekday ridership over 63,000. Currently Caltrain runs 104 trains per weekday, and by 2040 Caltrain capacity is projected to triple.

The work funded by this application will start the planning process for six at-grade crossings in Downtown San Mateo at: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 9th Avenues on the future High-Speed Rail alignment between San Francisco and the Silicon Valley. The six crossings see over 50,000 vehicles each weekday. Under the California State Rail Plan passenger train traffic is anticipated to grow to over 370 passenger trains per day by 2040. Separation of the six at-grade crossings will reduce delays and risks associated with rail grade crossings and reduce train horn noise and vibration. The Project will bring additional quality of life benefits to the area by improving local traffic flow and access to restaurants, businesses, and vital services, helping invigorate the

PENINSULA CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS BOARD
1250 San Carlos Ave. – P.O. Box 3006
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306 (650) 508-6200

economic vitality of San Mateo and the region while allowing train service to increase and meet statewide and regional mobility needs.

Thank you for your consideration and if you have any questions please contact Lori Low, Government & Community Affairs Acting Manager, at (650) 740-6264.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Bouchard', written in a cursive style.

Michelle Bouchard
Acting Executive Director

Cc: Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board of Directors



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ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 23, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: City of Burlingame – Broadway Grade Separation Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain), I am writing to express our strong support for the City of Burlingame's grant application for the Broadway Grade Separation Project (Project). With over 10,000 at-grade railroad crossings throughout the State of California, the Broadway at-grade railroad crossing in Burlingame remains the top priority on the California Public Utilities Commission's Grade Separation Priority List. Final engineering design is now well underway, environmental clearance has been secured, and the Project is ready for construction.

Caltrain is the seventh largest and most efficiently run commuter rail system in the country. It spans 77.3 miles and 32 stations, including one station connected to the San Francisco Airport by Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART). Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated disruption to transportation systems worldwide, Caltrain had an average mid-weekday ridership over 63,000. Currently Caltrain runs 104 trains per weekday, and by 2040 Caltrain capacity is projected to triple.

Separation of the Broadway crossing will reduce delays and risks associated with at-grade rail crossings and will improve traffic flow and the overall quality of life in and around the Project area. Broadway is the only gateway to Burlingame from U.S. 101, connecting the freeway to two vital business districts, numerous small and large businesses, and 11 San Francisco International Airport-serving hotels. Additionally, Broadway Avenue provides connections between downtown and a new Facebook campus and numerous hotels adjacent to US 101 including Hyatt, Hilton and Marriott to name a few. The concentration of these major destinations generates high traffic volumes that are compounded by the current at-grade railroad crossing which experiences some of the worst traffic congestion in the area.

The Project partners have committed significant resources to bring the Project to a "shovel-ready" state. With the support of the U.S. Department of Transportation, this new critical infrastructure will improve public safety, reduce traffic, facilitate active transportation modes, and invigorate the economic vitality of Burlingame and the region while allowing train service to increase and meet statewide and regional mobility needs.

Thank you for your consideration and if you have any questions, please contact Devon Ryan, Government & Community Affairs Officer, at (650) 730-6172.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Bouchard', written in a cursive style.

Michelle Bouchard
Acting Executive Director

cc: Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board of Directors

From: Elvera Faria

Sent: Friday, September 23, 2022 12:49 PM

To: cindy.chavez@bos.sccgov.org; Jimenez, Sergio <sergio.jimenez@sanjoseca.gov>; board@caltrain.com; devora.davis@sanjoseca.gov; bouchardm@samtrans.com

Subject: Blossom Hill Cal Train Station

Hi there:

I made a report that all the lights were out at your lot located at 5560 Monterey Hwy San Jose CA 95138. I would like to know status of my report #854256.

In addition, there is a pile of garbage (Pic attached) that needs to be cleaned up. In fact, the whole lot needs attention, there are abandoned vehicles in this lot as well. It all needs to be addressed as it is causing a blight and safety issue in the area.

The encampment under the crossing needs to be dealt with as well, it is a safety and security issue for commuters walking to and from the lot (Pic attached).

The community would also like to request regular community policing by the San Mateo Sherriff, they need to drive thru the lot at least once a week and keep track of what is happening.

Feel free to call me with any questions.

Thank you!
Elvera Faria

From: Bouchard, Michelle <BouchardM@caltrain.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 11:02 AM

To: Elvera Faria <efaria@rogersbenefit.com>; Board (@caltrain.com) <BoardCaltrain@samtrans.com>

Cc: Chavez, Cindy [cindy.chavez@bos.sccgov.org] <cindy.chavez@bos.sccgov.org>; Jimenez, Sergio <sergio.jimenez@sanjoseca.gov>; Chapman, Helen <helen.chapman@sanjoseca.gov>; Fromson, Casey <Fromsonc@samtrans.com>; Kirkpatrick, Scott <KirkpatrickS@samtrans.com>

Subject: RE: Blossom Hill Cal Train Station

Elvera,

We will get back to you. I am aware that there may be several parties involved in the issues that you are addressing. I will have staff look into this. We may need to contact you for clarification.

Thank you.

Michelle

From: Binglie Luo <binglie.luo@nyu.edu>

Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 4:56 PM

To: cacsecretary [@caltrain.com] <cacsecretary@caltrain.com>; Board (@caltrain.com) <BoardCaltrain@samtrans.com>; publicworks@cityofsanmateo.org

Subject: Excessive gate down time pose great danger to San Mateo / JPB Citizen advisory committee comment Sep21, 2022

You don't often get email from binglie.luo@nyu.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders.

Dear Caltrain board, JPB committee, and San Mateo Public Work,

Living less than 100 feet from a grade crossing, I have observed many instances of excessive gate down time when there is no train in San Mateo. Sometimes it happens at late night or early morning when the ringing sound is especially disturbing. Sometimes it happens at busy early evenings when many cars and pedestrians line up and keep waiting to cross. The gates will sometimes keep being in the down position for hours. That is ridiculous when JPB just requires gates to activate for 25 seconds prior to train approaching.

What's particularly endangering is when drivers and pedestrians stop trusting the gates and just cross from the other side of the road. Cars might be able to use a different crossing but pedestrians may need to take the risk. I have seen cars and pedestrians cross with gates down more than 5 times when I take my daily casual walk from home. This completely defeats the purpose of having a gate at grade crossing. What about the hours of sleep lost? Is there a way to quantify the toll on people's health?

These are not isolated incidents but I do not see any real attempt to fix these issues. It casts doubt on the purported statement by Caltrain "Grade crossing activation system is a key safety component of the railroad and of an electrified system". I wonder how Caltrain evaluates whoever contractor's work on delivering "a certified grade crossing activation system" (Balfour Beatty? certified by whom?) considering the contract is worth 700 million dollars and above.

If this new system takes time to get installed, what about any mitigation measures? How about quad gates? If quad gate is expensive, can you simply putting longer stick to block both sides of the road. How much time will that take? Or road closure? This may be better than lives lost.

Please let me know what you think.

Best,
Bing

From: Tietjen, Brent <TietjenB@samtrans.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 5:08 PM

To: binglie.luo@nyu.edu

Cc: Board (@caltrain.com) <BoardCaltrain@samtrans.com>; publicworks@cityofsanmateo.org; cacsecretary [@caltrain.com] <cacsecretary@caltrain.com>

Subject: RE: Excessive gate down time pose great danger to San Mateo / JPB Citizen advisory committee comment Sep21, 2022

Hi Bing,

Thank you for your email. There are a number of issues that can cause a crossing gate to remain down for an extended period of time. While Caltrain has a robust maintenance protocol, issues can arise at any crossing along the Caltrain corridor at any time. When a crossing gate malfunctions, they are placed into a fail-safe mode which puts the gates into the down position. When an issue is identified, Caltrain sends maintenance crews to the affected crossing to restore functionality as soon as possible.

If you notice irregularities in gate downtimes or think the gate is malfunctioning, please call Transit Police at 1.877.723.7245. The number and a unique crossing identifier is also posted on large blue signs on structures at each railroad crossing. Crews will restore the functionality of the gates as soon as possible. For all other Caltrain questions or comments please call the Caltrain Electrification Hotline at 650.399.9659 or email calmod@caltrain.com.

Thanks,
Brent Tietjen