

**JPB CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**San Mateo County Transit District Administrative Building**  
**1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos CA 94070**

**MINUTES JUNE 17, 2009**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** G. Graham (Chair), F. Granade, J. Hronowski, B. Jenkins,  
S. Richardson, B. Wilfley

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** P. Bendix, M. Kiesling

**STAFF PRESENT:** T. Bartholomew, M. Bouchard, J. Gunther (Amtrak), N. McKenna

Chair Gerald Graham called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m., and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Committee (Hronowski/Wilfley) approved the minutes of May 20, 2009.

**Public Comment**

Chair Graham said public comment is not always favorable but we must take the good with bad from our constituents.

Doug DeLong, Mountain View, reported:

- The High Speed Rail (HSR) fare from San Francisco to Los Angeles based on current Caltrain travel would be more than the projected HSR claim.
- According to a rail article Caltrain installed a radio repeater with the same frequency as the Napa Valley Railroad repeater output channel.

Steve Van Pelt, said he commutes from Atherton to Lawrence and the passengers on the Valco shuttle received a flyer informing them the shuttle is being discontinued. He said commuter check programs to increase Caltrain ridership were successful in the past and employers should have some sort of pretax plan to stimulate transit use.

**Service Suspension and/or Fare Changes Subcommittee Report - Resolution**

Chair Graham said a subcommittee was formed at the May meeting including Vice Chair John Hronowski, Sepi Richardson and Brian Wilfley. Mr. Hronowski distributed a resolution that supports the following: reduction of mid-day service from half-hourly to hourly headways; increase in parking fees to \$3 per day and \$30 per month; increase in GO Pass fee from two zones to three zones; and a 25 cent increase in the base fare. The subcommittee did not recommend eliminating weekend or Gilroy service. The subcommittee was split on the 25 cent zone fare increase.

Francois Granade said it is disappointing that Caltrain has to reduce service. Caltrain is more than transportation; it is part of an infrastructure for regional development.

Mr. Hronowski hoped hourly service will be temporary. Deputy Director Rail Transportation Michelle Bouchard agreed; transit lags the economy and it may be a difficult next year.

Sepi Richardson said it is unfortunate that the economy is impacting transportation. She is absolutely against reducing any service. Ms. Richardson appreciates all staff has done to provide the best service possible at this time. She said the community needs to come together to help resolve the problem.

Brian Wilfley asked if JPB member agencies are still going to be conserving their contributions. Ms. Bouchard said they are going to continue their contribution at the FY09 level. He said public outreach was very good and had a substantial impact.

Chair Graham said he is receiving feedback from the public. They would rather have a fare increase than a cut in service. He said if the base and zone fares are increased it would increase revenue by \$3.7 million. Ms. Bouchard said staff received over 800 comments, which reflected this sentiment. There is a definite reluctance to increase fares with the economy in an upheaval. She said staff is trying to maintain ridership; and may have to raise fares in the not-too-distant future if budget issues are not settled.

#### Public Comment

Doug DeLong, Mountain View, said the discount on the monthly pass should be analyzed because it may be too high; a base fare increase should be considered.

Jeff Carter, Burlingame, said at the June JPB meeting staff recommended against weekend service suspension and fare increases, but would analyze the budget in six months. He said he is in favor of paying more rather than having service suspensions. The convenience of the train is what draws people. Mr. Carter said people that have a monthly pass receive about a 35 percent discount. He said staff did do a good job in reducing the \$10 million deficit, but a dedicated funding source needs to be developed.

Andy Chow, Redwood City, said he is pleased with the recommendations put forth by staff for board approval, including no fare increases. He said he doesn't use mid-day service often, but will miss the convenience of the half-hourly service. All transit agencies are cutting fares and service. Mr. Chow would like the resolution to include that the FY 2011 budget be reviewed in January and not April.

Chair Graham said the resolution proposed by the committee is very similar to the press release of June 3, 2009. He would prefer to see the budget balanced in some other way rather than reducing service.

A motion (Richardson/Hronowski) to approve a resolution for Caltrain service reductions/fare changes was passed. Mr. Granade abstained. The resolution will be presented to the JPB at their July 2 meeting.

Ms. Bouchard thanked the CAC for their efforts and support in preparing the resolution.

### **Presentation: Annual Passenger Counts**

Ms. Bouchard made the following points:

- The purpose of counts is to provide data for the cost split among the JPB partners. The survey is completed once a year in order for staff to identify trends.
- February counts are taken on every weekday train and averaged over 5 days and on one weekend.
- Average weekday ridership is up almost 6 percent over 2008.
- Ridership increased at 19 stations and decreased at five stations over 2008.
- The delivery of eight Bombardier cars in October 2008 helped ease the ridership load.
- Santa Clara County had the highest ridership gain and generates the most riders.
- Average weekday bicycle ridership increased 21.3 percent in 2009. All gallery cars have been converted from 32 to 40 bike slots; and two Bombardier cars have been converted from 16 to 24 bike slots.
- Weekend ridership has surpassed pre-shutdown ridership; and decreased 7 percent from 2008.
- Staff has aggressively pursued fare increases and is concerned about fare elasticity.

### **Public Comment**

Jeff Carter, Burlingame, said problems with the economy may be drawing people to public transit. He said it may be worthwhile to do an exercise to see how ridership was affected on weekends with the closure of Bay Meadows in San Mateo.

Doug DeLong, Mountain View, said the station that showed the highest percentage growth was San Antonio. He thanked staff for keeping this station as a limited schedule stop. He suggested having the trains alternate between local and express between their schedules.

Mr. Wilfley asked if the California Avenue station was impacted by construction during counts. There was no discussion on this.

### **Chairperson's Report**

Chair Graham said he informed the JPB about maintaining train service. He said a public meeting on service and fare changes was held at the June meeting; approximately 28 members of the public spoke.

Bruce Jenkins left at 7:07 p.m.

### **Staff Report**

Ms. Bouchard reported:

- May 2009 ridership is down 3.3 percent; on-time performance is at 95 percent compared to May 2008.
- There were four fatalities on Caltrain in the last six weeks. Staff has a very active Operation Lifesaver outreach program with schools, local communities and local law enforcement.
- Regular train service will operate on July 3.

### Public Comment

Andy Chow, Redwood City, reported:

- The recent suicide fatalities on Caltrain are an illness; Caltrain needs to make sure people are not intruding on the Caltrain right of way.
- There is an agreement with the MTC, Caltrain, San Francisco and San Jose for strategies to obtain stimulus funds. He urged JPB partners to work together on this agreement.
- Caltrain is ahead of other agencies in planning for high speed rail.

### **Committee Comments**

Mr. Wilfley said Stanford University staff raised an issue regarding the GO Pass at the June JPB meeting. Ms. Bouchard said no change had occurred with the Go Pass and any changes will be addressed at the executive level. The GO Pass is currently priced at revenue neutral. GO Pass revenue has fallen being revenue neutral; the proposed increased is 41 percent. Ms. Bouchard will report back on any changes.

### **Date, Time, Place of Next Meeting**

Wednesday, July 15, 6 p.m., San Mateo County Transit District Administrative Building, 1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos CA 94070, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Boccaccio Auditorium

**Adjournment at 7:17 p.m.**