

**Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
Advocacy and Major Projects (AMP) Committee
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070
Minutes of February 26, 2025**

Members Present: Margaret Abe-Koga, Jeff Gee, Steve Heminger (Chair)

Staff Present: J. Baker, R. Barnard, M. Bouchard, J. Brook, D. Chazan, J. Gibson (Kimley-Horn), J. Harrison, S. LaBatt (EMC Research), L. Lumina-Hsu, D. Ryan

1. Call to Order

Chair Steve Heminger called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

2. Roll Call

Deputy District Secretary Loana Lumina-Hsu called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

3. Pledge of Allegiance / Safety Briefing

Chair Heminger led the Pledge of Allegiance and noted the safety briefing.

4. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda – There were none.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 29, 2025

Motion/Second: Gee/Abe-Koga

Ayes: Abe-Koga, Gee, Heminger

Noes: None

Absent: None

Item 7 was heard before Item 6.

6. Receive Update on Active Grade Crossing Projects and Corridor Crossing Strategy

Jill Gibson, Vice President, Kimley-Horn; Rob Barnard, Chief, Rail Design and Construction; and Dahlia Chazan, Chief, Rail Planning, provided the presentation, which included the following:

- Corridor co-owned by Caltrain and Union Pacific
- Delivery Guide provides clear standards for crossing strategy that include grade separations, crossing closures, design and operation considerations, and consideration of active transportation components
- Enhancement project segments located at Millbrae, Hayward Park, California Avenue stations, including at-grade enhancements such as gates, pavement striping, and technology
- Integrated delivery approach for elimination planning projects: commercial pricing, funding updates, design decisions public outreach, independent cost estimates for future projects

The Committee members had a robust discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Committee comments and questions, which included the following:

- Completed closures
- Incorporating peer review during early phases of projects
- Conducting contractor roundtables
- Determining Bay Area cost drivers
- Pursue partnering with MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) to oversee construction costs
- Current secured funding as project is part of Capital Improvement Plan

Public Comment

Roland commented on the increase in maximum grade from 1 percent to 2 percent, boarding policy at all stations, and project prioritization.

7. Receive State and Federal Legislative Update and Consider of Positions on Legislation: Senate Bill 71 (Wiener), Assembly Bill 394 (Wilson)

Jason Baker, Director, Government and Community Affairs, and Devon Ryan, Government Affairs Officer, provided the presentation, which included the following:

Federal:

- Many federal employees fired with more cuts expected in near future
- Funds and grants still being processed
- Continuing resolution (CR) through March 14 to keep government running
- IIJA (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act)'s Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing to receive an update on implementation and discuss environmental regulation
- New administration to repeal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations to reduce its burden on public projects
- Federal investigation regarding funding the California High-Speed Rail Project

State:

- Executive Director met with state legislators on February 4
- Senators Wiener and Aragon leading effort to secure \$2 billion to address transit needs
- CTC (California Transportation Commission) elected new leadership March 1
- Assembly Bill (AB) 1372 (Papan) aid regenerative braking energy recovery compensation
 - Savings depends on the price of electricity
 - \$15-20 million per year with estimated savings of \$1 million per year
 - Additional benefit from storing energy as opposed to returning to the grid
- Senate Bill (SB) 71 (Wiener) extend CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) exemptions for transit projects

- AB 394 (Wilson) enhance the safety and security of California's public transit systems by strengthening protections for transit operators, employees, and passengers

The Committee members had a robust discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Committee comments and questions, which included the following:

- Agendize the quarter-wide grade crossing separations in light of CEQA exemption
- SB 922 spells out CEQA exemptions under SB 71

Regional:

- Principles of regional measure approved
- Citizens' initiative as opposed to ballot measure

Sara LaBatt, Senior Principal, EMC Research, provided the presentation on the MTC polling results:

- Surveyed 1,500 respondents in January using three different tax scenarios
 - Majority voted against tax increases
 - All responses below two-thirds threshold required for ballot measure passage
 - Caltrain outperformed the polling with 69 percent on three-county 1/8 cent sales tax measure
 - San Francisco voters more supportive of any tax measure versus San Mateo and Santa Clara county voters
- Relieving traffic congestion a major priority

The Committee members continued their discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Committee comments and questions, which included the following:

- 1/8 sales tax would raise many San Mateo County cities' tax rate above state cap of 10 percent
- Funding mechanism based on fare loss during pandemic – would receive \$67 million per year for ten years
- Benefits of mentioning Caltrain in measure language due to its favorability with voters
- Three counties' contributions to Measure RR \$35 to 42 million split among three funding partners

Public Comment

Adina Levin, Seamless Bay Area, Friends of Caltrain, commented on Caltrain being an asset to the regional funding measure.

Roland commented on the property tax option for the regional measure.

8. Committee Member Requests - There were none.

9. Date/Time of Next Regular AMP Committee Meeting: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 3:30 pm.

10. Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at 5:23 pm.