

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB)
San Mateo County Transit District Administrative Building
Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos CA 94070

Minutes of March 19, 2025

Members Present: D. Albohm, A. Brandt (Chair), A. Kulkarni (Alternate), R. Kutler, P. Leung (Vice Chair), K. Linguist, M. Pagee (Alternate), R. Sarathy, P. Wickman (Alternate)

Members Absent: L. Acosta, A. Lohe

Staff Present: B. Baney, J. Brook, H. Flores, S. Mudge (HNTB), R. Nielsen (Brown Armstrong), S. Sargent, B. Thompson, A. To

1. Call to Order

Chair Adrian Brandt called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Peter Wickman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

CAC Secretary Jean Brook called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

4. Consideration of Requests, if any, of Committee Members to Participate Remotely Due to Emergency Circumstances – There were none.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2025

Motion/Second: Wickman/Sarathy

Ayes: Albohm, Kulkarni, Kutler, Linguist, Pagee, Sarathy, Wickman, Brandt

Absent: Acosta, Lohe

Abstain: Leung

6. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, commented on out-of-service bike car doors.

Roland commented on operations and maintenance of rail cars.

7. Chairperson's Report

Chair Brandt reported on the following:

- New toilet installations at Redwood City and Sunnyvale stations
- Broadway Burlingame grade separation value engineering
- RailSentry and photo monitoring to address track incursions
- New BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) fare gates; VTA (Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority) strike effect on other transit modes

Public Comment

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, commented on track incursion mitigation and Broadway grade separation.
Roland commented on the VTA strike and grade crossings.

8. Public Hearing on the Annual Audit of Measure RR Tax Revenue & Expenditures for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

a) Open Public Hearing

Chair Brandt opened the public hearing.

b) Staff Report

Annie To, Director, Accounting, provided a summary of the audit process and introduced Ryan Nielsen, Managing Partner, Brown Armstrong. Mr. Nielsen provided the presentation, which included the following:

- Unmodified clean opinion
- No disagreements encountered in performing the audit and no findings or questioned costs on internal control and compliance

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

- Unallowed expenses include donations for political purposes, contributions to organizations that influence public policy
- Auditor examined samples of reports, including high-risk areas
- Staff to develop simplified public-facing report in coming weeks
- Suggestion to do a deeper dive into certain aspects of audit in future hearings

c) Public Comment

Roland commented the annual report should show compliance with ballot language and how funds were spent.

d) Close Public Hearing

Motion/Second: Leung/Kutler

Ayes: Albohm, Kutler, Linquist, Pagee, Sarathy, Wickman, Leung, Brandt

Absent: Acosta, Kulkarni, Lohe

e) Board Discussion

Committee Discussion

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

- Request to include a summary or graphic in public-facing staff report

Motion/Second: Kutler/Leung

Ayes: Albohm, Kulkarni, Kutler, Linquist, Pagee, Sarathy, Wickman, Leung, Brandt

Absent: Acosta, Lohe

9. Go Pass & Partnership Updates

Bruce Thompson, Manager, Fare Program Operations, provided the presentation, which included the following:

- Objectives include responding to changing market and building new ridership in light of declining GoPass revenue since Fiscal Year 2021
- Challenges with acquiring new business include high cost and requirement that all employees join the program
- Removing GoPass pricing from fare structure
- Educational institution category changes included free passes for undergraduate students if all staff enroll – build future customer base
- Leave Bay Pass agreement in place; outreach to current clients
- Criteria for retaining participants, pricing structure, and utilization

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

- Tagging on and off still required with GoPass
- Suggestion for discount for passholders (friends and family, residents/tenants, semiannual passes, group tickets, distance-based fares)
- Caltrain agreement with Bay Pass, suggestion for a longer-term contract than annual
- Integration with other transit benefit programs

Public Comment

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, commented on tiered fare structure, annual passes, distance-based fares, and commuter pre-tax benefits.

Victoria Carmona, San Jose, commented on monthly GoPass convenience.

Doug DeLong, Mountain View, commented on the tiered pricing structure and point-to-point pricing.

Adina Levin, Seamless Bay Area, commented on the relationship between Go Pass and Bay Pass.

Roland commented on fare structure, group discounts, and special events.

10. Update on Caltrain Strategic Sustainability Plan & Caltrain Climate Vulnerability Study

Bo Baney, Principal Sustainability Planner, provided the presentation, which included the following:

- Reducing carbon emissions, engaging staff and community, and improving efficiency
- Strategic Sustainability Plan will set direction for next ten years
- Encouraging transit use for employees and public
- Setting priorities and evaluation criteria for Plan
- Evaluation criteria included environmental impact, financial benefits, staff time requirements – get credit for sustainability achievements, and grant funding
- Caltrain Climate Vulnerability Study – analyzed climate impact on operations, riders, infrastructure, employees

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

- Outreach via social media, website, take-ones on trains
- Heat mitigation; Shade/shelter at stations; last-mile prioritized to help disadvantaged communities
- Getting more people on the train and out of cars, weighting plan evaluation criteria
- Improving labor efficiency, resulting in lower fares and improved service

Public Comment

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, commented on climate change, increased weekend frequency, and the Caltrain Strategic Sustainability Plan.

Doug DeLong, Mountain View, commented on having solar panels on shelters, and regeneration of power via battery storage.

Adina Levin, Seamless Bay Area, commented that getting people out of cars is the main priority, equity program, mode share, and TOD (transit-oriented development).

Roland commented on greenhouse gas reduction, shade at stations, and the grading alternative in San Jose.

Ashish Kulkarni left the meeting at 8:26 pm.

11. Staff Report

11 a) Customer Experience Task Force Update was heard prior to Flat Spots.

• Flat Spots

Henry Flores, Director, Rail Vehicle Maintenance, and Steven Mudge, Vice President, Transit and Rail, HNTB provided a report on flat spots, which included the following:

- Maintenance working with HNTB; Stadler and brake manufacturer are working together
- Tread conditions; Brake manufacturer - pneumatic braking effort is appropriate
- Distribution between the braking effort motor truck versus trailer truck

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

- Reasons for flat spot occurrences
- Potential design, software, or hardware defect - significant amount of tread defects
- Trains going into emergency mode for unknown reasons
- Process for crew to report to Rail Vehicle Maintenance

a) Customer Experience Task Force Update

Sam Sargent, Director, Strategy and Policy, provided the staff report, which included the following:

- Increased on-time performance; One trespasser strike in January and February

- Partner with venues for special events
- Total ridership at The Committee had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Committee 49.3 percent of pre-pandemic levels; Increased weekend ridership

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

- Trains leaving early
- Wi-Fi reliability

b) JPB CAC Work Plan Update – There was none.

Public Comment

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, inquired about APCs (automated passenger counters) tune up. Mr. Sargent said staff are still testing.

Adina Levin, Seamless Bay Area, commented on open payment systems and partnerships with venues.

Roland commented on wayfinding, inadequate power supply on trains, and flat spots.

12. Committee Comments – There were none.

13. Date, Time, and Location of Next Regular Meeting

April 16, 2025, at 5:40 pm, via Zoom teleconference or at the Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor, 1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm.