

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

Members Present: Margaret Abe-Koga (arrived at 3:48 pm), Jeff Gee, Steve Heminger (Chair)

Staff Present: J. Baker, M. Bouchard, J. Brook, J. Gibson (Kimley-Horn), J. Harrison, M. Lee (Lighthouse Public Affairs), L. Lumina-Hsu, S. Marsh (Mott MacDonald), D. Ryan, L. Scanlon (Kimley-Horn)

1. Call to Order

Chair Steve Heminger called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

2. Roll Call

JPB Deputy 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.

4. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

Roland commented on his letter to the Finance Committee and his comments made at the TOPS (Technology, Operations, Planning, and Safety) Committee meeting regarding professional services contracts.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 26, 2025

Motion/Second: Gee/Heminger

Ayes: Gee, Heminger

Noes: None

Absent: Abe-Koga

6. Receive State and Federal Legislative Update

Devon Ryan, Government Affairs Officer, provided the presentation, which included the following:

Federal:

- Passed a full-year continuing resolution (CR) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) advance appropriations to provide \$20.9 billion for public transit and \$16.2 billion for passenger rail

- New OST-P (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy) guidance on grant awards made between Fiscal Years 2022-2025 without fully obligated grant agreements – now subject to further review based on current administration's priorities

State:

- Bill amendments due to Senate by March 26, 2025
- CalSTA (California State Transportation Agency) task force met March 11 to discuss strategies to provide first/last mile access to transit and accessible transportation options
- State budget requesting \$2 billion in flexible funding over two years for public transit

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

- Flexible funding is for all of California and not just Bay Area
- Past funding formula – distributed mostly towards operations, 40 percent went to Northern California; Board requested staff provide current funding recommendation

Regional:

- San Francisco Mayor Lurie launched a ballot measure committee regarding funding for SFMTA (San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency)
- Discussions in San Mateo County about Measure A renewal
- Updates on Senate Bill (SB) 63 (Wiener) – Caltrain priorities including operations funding, flexibility, simplicity, and focus on voters
- Updates on SB 79 (Wiener) – exempts certain railyard developments from CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act)
- Update on SB 30 (Cortese) – decommissioning, resale, and transfer restrictions regarding diesel powered on-track equipment
- Assembly Bill (AB) 1372 (Papan) – make Caltrain eligible for regenerative braking net energy compensation

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

- Exempting half percent sales tax from the 10-cent cap
- Requirement for agencies to have a third-party review and only use funds for operating unless granted an exception

Public Comment

Adrian Brandt spoke in support of SB 63 and SB 30.

Roland commented on SB 63, noting surplus being transferred to a debt reduction fund and not used for operations.

7. Receive Update on Corridor Crossing Strategy: Program Methodology

Dahlia Chazan, Chief, Planning, and Jill Gibson, Vice President, Kimley-Horn, provided the presentation, which included the following:

- Corridor Crossing Strategy evolved from Caltrain Business Plan
- Responding to increasing capital costs
- Safety enhancements to at-grade crossings as well as grade separations based on crossing assessment and incident database
- Grade crossing elimination projects – prioritization framework includes rankings and fund availability
- Focus on safety, improved rail operations, growing ridership, and community connectivity

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

- Near-term safety addressed by enhancements to at-grade crossings
- Relationship between corridor crossing and trespasser strategies
- Controlling estimated costs for grade separation projects – close crossing instead of separating, pricing consistency, engaging with contractor community
- Community input needed to decide on project priorities

Public Comment

Adrian Brandt commented on fatalities and automated video enforcement at crossings.

Roland commented on a study on modular construction and crossing improvements.

8. Receive Update on Diridon Station Governance and Funding for Project Delivery

Marian Lee, Partner, Diridon Interim Director; and Stephen Marsh, Buildings Practice Leader, Mott MacDonald, provided the presentation, which included the following:

- Station alternatives – at-grade (street) level and elevated (concourse) level
- Project boundary was defined in 2020; maintain rail service during construction period
- Challenges with access to maintenance facility – elevated track option has insufficient space for tracks to meet South Lead
- “Fatal flaw” with elevated track alternative – lose access to maintenance facility
- At-grade crossing has implications for Auzerais Avenue and West Virginia Street crossing treatments
- Hiring program director to lead Caltrain and partner agency staff

The Committee members had a robust discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Committee comments and questions, which included impact of SB 79 (CEQA exemption) on project.

Public Comment

Roland commented on fatal flaws with the station design alternatives.

Adrian Brandt commented on the elevated track alternative, and Auzerais Avenue and West Virginia Street grade separations.

9. Committee Member Requests - There were none.

10. Date/Time of Next Regular AMP Committee Meeting: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 3:30 pm.

11. Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at 5:06 pm.