

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 April 16, 2025

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

Members Absent: A. Kulkarni (Alternate), P. Wickman (Alternate)

Staff Present: J. Brook, S. Bullock, J. Hogan, M. Jones, A. Marx, M. Meader,
S. Sargent

1. Call to Order

Chair Adrian Brandt called the meeting to order at 5:43 pm.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance / Safety Briefing

Member Davis Albohm led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Brandt delivered the Safety Briefing.

**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 March 19, 2025

Member Kristopher Linquist made a correction indicating the Pledge of Allegiance was led by
Member Peter Wickman.

Motion/Second: Pagee/Leung

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

Absent: Kulkarni, Wickman

6. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, requested more information about Clipper use and ticket purchase trends.

Doug DeLong, Mountain View, commented on statutory change for Caltrain to receive credit for
braking regeneration, battery storage, and the strategic financial plan.

Helene Grossman, Palo Alto, proposed each train have a quiet car that prohibits phone use.

Aleta Dupree commented on cell reception in tunnels and Clipper 2.

Roland commented on a Palo Alto community meeting on a quiet zone at Churchill, Meadow, and Charleston, and Caltrain partnerships with cities.

7. Report of the Chair

Chair Brandt reported on the following:

- Growing ridership; conductors' union reached an agreement with TASI (TransitAmerica Services, Inc.) for retroactive pay increase
- New station Throne bathrooms – one currently taken out of service; close at midnight while trains are still running
- Train washers need adjustment to clean trains below the taper
- Redwood City Council approved an MOU (memorandum of understanding) with Caltrain to do a project study report on a new four-track station and fully grade separating Redwood City

8. Safety Quarterly Update

Mike Meader, Chief Safety Officer, provided the presentation, which included the following:

- Enhancing safety culture – recognition programs, survey, roadshows
- Reportable injuries declining – zero injuries this year
- Vehicle track incursions declining
- Grade crossing enhancements –RailSentry, pavement markings, solar lane markers, delineators, signage, lighting, technology, trespasser panels
- Technology and enforcement – CCTV (closed circuit television), partnerships with law enforcement; suicide prevention – partnerships with mental health groups
- Tree management – completed meetings with cities, now working with private property owners; electrified service safety – trains are quieter and quicker, high-voltage environment
- Community partnerships and outreach – mitigate station safety issues
- Security – reevaluating passenger Code of Conduct, fare evasion appeals process, camera towers, bike theft investigations; transit police calls for service slightly increased due to increased reporting

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

- Trespasser panels on ground – makes it impossible for people to walk on the tracks
- 5 to 10 percent of trespasser strikes were unintentional; audible warning announcement activates when not near the tracks
- Safety statistics from previous quarter in future presentations; Sequoia station camera tower – monitored by Security team at Central; can contact transit police as needed
- Public service announcements to prevent unintentional trespasses

Public Comment

Doug DeLong, Mountain View, commented on the lack of meeting video in the Auditorium and successful tree removal.

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, commented on the Caltrain safety dashboard and tree removal.

Aleta Dupree commented on four-track stations and intrusion mitigation methods.

Chair Brandt announced the upcoming CAC recruitment.

9. Service Vision Update

Dahlia Chazan, Chief of Planning, provided a summary of the service vision. Melissa Jones, Deputy Director, Policy Development, provided the presentation, which included the following:

- Service vision is key output of Caltrain business plan process
- Maintain core service in current service area while expanding throughout region
- Plan for next decade; adoption planned for late summer or early fall 2025

Public Comment

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, commented on four-track stations with passing tracks and having shorter trains.

Aleta Dupree commented on the proposed frequency of eight trains per hour and four-track stations.

Adina Levin, Friends of Caltrain, Seamless Bay Area, commented on the frequency of updating the service plan and increasing ridership at a given level of service.

Item 11 was heard before Item 10

10. Wireless Crossing

Aaron Marx, Consultant, CalMod Program Management, provided the presentation, which included the following:

- Operations – communication between onboard computer, signal, and dispatch
- Reduces congestion and prioritizes safety; inhibit feature launched January 2025
- Manual start activation to launch early 2026; Amtrak to start using system mid-2025

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

- HMI (human/machine interface) negatively affected on-time performance; current on-time performance model does not include inhibit function; reconfigured inhibit feature expected early 2026
- Island spaces too wide, need adjustment; speed checks happen at beginning of circuit; 20 seconds minimum warning time

Public Comment

Jeff Carter, Millbrae, commented on reduction of gate downtime, Broadway station weekend service, and trains not pulling up far enough to activate gates.

Adina Levin, Friends of Caltrain, Seamless Bay Area, commented on gate downtime and unsafe passenger behavior at Menlo Park platform.

Andy Chow commented on improved safety of at-grade crossings and concerns with people being unable to board trains.

Roland commented on warning times.

11. Staff Report

11.a. Customer Experience Task Force Update

John Hogan, Chief Operating Officer, provided the staff report, which included the following:

- Better cooperation with transit police on trespasser strikes; one incident in March
- Partnerships with Chase Center, San Jose Earthquakes; wayfinding signs on trains showing restroom locations
- Update on flat spots – trains under warranty; Caltrain to receive reimbursement once responsible entities are determined

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

- Vibrations on trains at certain speeds may be flat-spot related; trains unintentionally going into emergency braking – issue mostly fixed; down to average of one incident per day
- Make last car a quiet car; some crew members lack Clipper readers to check fares – issue with Clipper 2
- Learning curve for conductors and mechanics working with EMUs (electric multiple units); no spare trains when one EMU is out of service
- Cleanliness of trains with heavy use following events such as Giants games
- Sliding doors not always working; bathroom doors not latching properly –new latches to be installed in coming months.

Public Comment

Doug DeLong, Mountain View, commented on Stadler delivery delays.

Adina Levin, Friends of Caltrain, Seamless Bay Area, commented on battery life of Clipper readers, passenger counters, and problems with power outlets.

Aleta Dupree, Team Folds, commented on power outlets, Clipper readers and restrooms on trains, WiFi, and flat spots.

Roland commented on flat spots, emergency braking, and acceleration testing.

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

12. Committee Member Comments – There were none.

13. Date / Time / Location of Next Regular Meeting

May 21, 2025, at 5:40 pm, via Zoom teleconference or at the Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor, 1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA.

14. Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.