

Bicycle and Active Transportation Committee (BATAC)

Draft Minutes March 20, 2025

Members Present: John Bolka, Jim Gardner, Lourdes Gomez, Christine Luong (arrived at 5:49 pm), Nicole Rodia, Michael Chin (Vice Chair), Cliff Bargar (Chair)

Members Absent: Jacob Henke

Staff Present: B. Baney, J. Brook, J. Jest, B. Lopez, D. Provence, R. Sims

Item 1 was heard after Item 2.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Cliff Bargar led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Bargar called the meeting to order at 5:46 pm.

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

3. Consideration of Requests, if any, of Directors to participate remotely due to Emergency Circumstances – There were none.

4. Public Comment

Chris Florkowski commented on the successful maintenance of the elevators at Bayshore Station.

5. Approval of Minutes of January 16, 2025 Meeting

Motion/Second: Bargar/Bolka

Ayes: Bargar, Bolka, Chin, Gardner, Gomez, Luong, Rodia

Noes: None

Absent: Henke

6. Adoption of Bylaws

Baltazar Lopez, Government Affairs Officer, noted that the bylaws document reflected revisions that had been made in 2024 and 2021.

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

- No changes to procedures
- Agendas to be posted 72 hours instead of one week prior to meetings in compliance with Brown Act
- Formatting of document to be corrected prior to next meeting

Motion/Second: Bargar/Bolka

Ayes: Bargar, Bolka, Chin, Gardner, Gomez, Luong, Rodia

Noes: None

Absent: Henke

7. Special Meeting Request (May BATAC Meeting Cancelled)

Mr. Lopez noted that the May meeting was cancelled due to staff being out of town.

The Committee voted to reschedule the meeting to June 12, 2025.

Motion/Second: Bargar/Rodia

Ayes: Bargar, Bolka, Chin, Gardner, Gomez, Luong, Rodia

Noes: None

Absent: Henke

8. Receive Update on Caltrain Strategic Sustainability Plan and 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, including 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

Public Comment

Chris Florkowski inquired about outreach to other domestic and international Stadler customers regarding risk mitigation.

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

- State and federal grant funding
- Cost savings for removing one car from the road
- Vulnerable communities – part of emerging re-engineered safety net to mitigate homelessness.
- Potential financial incentives from regenerative braking
- Quantification of freeway that Caltrain is saving – reduced cost of lane-miles used
- State tracks tax burden of maintaining roads
- Mitigate pollution from non-revenue vehicles and diesel trains – half of new fleet must be electric
- Train delays due to climate impacts– have more accurate estimates to notify customers
- Comprehensive analysis of station shelters protect riders from elements
- Accurate communication about delays beyond platform – cyclists can be prepared before arriving; alerts currently in use on website and Discord

9. Caltrain Customer Satisfaction Survey Results 2024

Julian Jest, Market Research and Development, provided the presentation, which included the following:

- High overall satisfaction of 78 percent

- Key area for improvement – communicating train delays
- Survey conducted summer 2024 on diesel fleet – online and onboard
- Average customer riding for four years
- More opportunities for growth with advent of electric trains
- 68 percent use Clipper
- \$1 youth fare to cultivate youth riders
- 39 percent are new riders – ride Caltrain more frequently than long-term riders
- Highest share of riders with bikes/scooters at San Francisco, Palo Alto, and San Jose Diridon
- Bike/scooter users ride Caltrain more frequently than those without
- Stations – lighting and security, cleanliness
- Concerns – information on delays, need to improve wayfinding and electronic signage – new signage installed at all stations, and upcoming PADS (Predictive Arrival/Departure System)
- Grade crossing enhancements and CCTV (closed-circuit television) repairs/replacements with right of way
- Stations – bike cars labeled; raise awareness of eLockers for safe bike storage
- Caltrain Alerts provide automated text and email system updates
- Onboard wayfinding and printed materials
- Customer Relationship Management implementation – provide self-help options for customers onboard

Public Comment

Chris Florkowski spoke in support of reducing the amount of time between conducting a survey and getting the results.

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

- Breakdown of share per station
- Onboard restroom locations indicated on website – second car from north
- Conductors promote youth fare onboard; target students with promotions
- Ticket purchases broken out via Caltrain mobile app, TVMs (ticket vending machines), Go Pass program
- Wayfinding for restrooms, bike cars on train; improve Apple and Google map directions to stations
- Survey event attendees to encourage leisure riders
- Landscaping at 22nd Street Station
- Onboard screens – bike/scooter etiquette
- Increased outreach to riders about promotions on all digital media platforms – customer relations platform, Bluesky being added, emailed newsletters

10. Bike Security Annual Update 2024

Roderick Sims, Senior Rail Safety Officer, was accompanied by John Whitmer, Community Service Officer, Transit Police Bureau, San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Sims provided the

presentation, which included the following:

- 2024 - highest number of onboard bike thefts since 2019
- Recovered bikes donated to schools and churches
- Interior-facing cameras on all cars
- CCTV project is underway at stations, beginning with San Francisco 4th and King station
- Peer agencies surveyed – riders sit/stand near their bikes

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

- Video feed in cars adjacent to bike cars to monitor bike; priority seating for bike owners not happening
- Bike car labeling rolling out in April
- Serial numbers, tracking devices, air tags to aid recovery of stolen bikes/scooters

11. Chairperson's Report – There was none.

12. Staff Report

a. Bike to Wherever Day

Mr. Lopez stated that he and Dan Provence, Principal Planner, would not be able to attend the May 15 Bike to Wherever Day, and reported on the following:

- Bike stencils rolling out in April, to be completed in May
- New eLockers rolling out along the corridor prior to May 15
- Phasing out bike bump report; replacing with new Customer Service report

13. Written Correspondence

Mr. Lopez stated the correspondence was posted on the website.

14. Committee Requests – There were none.

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting

June 12, 2025, at 5:45 pm at 1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.