

**Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board  
Board of Directors**

**1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070**

**Minutes of May 1, 2025**

**Members Present:** Margaret Abe-Koga (arrived at 9:22 am), Pat Burt, David J. Canepa, Jeff Gee, Shamann Walton, Monique Zmuda, Rico E. Medina (Vice Chair), Steve Heminger (Chair)

**Members Absent:** David Cohen

**Staff Present:** J. Baker, M. Bouchard, A. Brandt, J. Brook, S. Bullock, C. Fromson, J. Harrison, K. Jordan Steiner, M. Tseng, L. Zhang

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Heminger called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

**2. Roll Call**

Margaret Tseng, JPB Secretary, called the roll and confirmed a Board quorum was present.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance / Safety Briefing**

Chair Heminger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Consideration of requests, if any, of Directors to participate remotely due to Emergency Circumstances** – There were none.

**5. Request to Change Order of Business** – There were none.

**6. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda**

Aleta Dupree commented on Clipper 2 and expressed satisfaction with Caltrain service.

Adina Levin, Seamless Bay Area, commented on Clipper 2 open payment feature and current handheld fare readers.

**7. Report of the Executive Director**

Michelle Bouchard, Executive Director, provided the presentation that included the following:

- RailSentry technology and improved safety at grade crossings
- Half-hour train schedule success
- Long-range service vision update
- Caltrain will be prominently featured for EMUs (electric multiple units) as well as on grade crossings and separations at California Transportation Commission meeting in San Francisco on May 14 and 15; Will be hosting and providing technical tours

- Wayfinding signage for restrooms installed onboard and in stations; bike decals on platforms to reduce dwell times and confusion
- San Francisco Giants events major contributor to service recovery

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

- Rail Sentry technology costs for grade separations
- Quad gates further enhance safety versus full grade separations for entire corridor
- Enhanced crossing strategy, environmental impact, train noise
- Pursue California High Speed Rail Authority funding for quad gates
- Ridership below pre-pandemic levels during commute hours

*Director Abe-Koga arrived at 9:22 am.*

#### Public Comment

Jeff Carter commented on increased train frequency, weekend and off-peak express service, California Transportation Commission (CTC) support of Caltrain, and station restrooms.

Malcolm Robinson commented on the boarding process at 4<sup>th</sup> and King station after San Francisco Giants games.

Aleta Dupree, Team Folds, commented on increased ridership and regional rail service.

Adrian Brandt commented on publicizing electric outlets onboard trains, RailSentry, and European train boarding practices.

Roland commented on grade crossing enhancements funding.

Doug DeLong commented on Stadler trains delivery.

## **8. Consent Calendar**

**8.a. Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 3, 2025**

**8.b. Accept Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending February 28, 2025**

**8.c. Accept Annual Audit of Measure RR Tax Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**

**8.d. Award a Cooperative Purchasing Contract to Mansfield Oil Company of Gainesville, Inc. to Supply Renewable and Standard Red-Dye, Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel and Fueling Services through September 2027 for a Total Estimated Amount of \$2,527,274\* – Approved by Resolution No. 2025-17**

The Board motioned the Consent Calendar with addendum to Item 8.d. to receive quarterly pricing reports going forward in light of fuel price increases.

Motion/Second: Medina/Abe-Koga

Ayes: Abe-Koga, Burt, Canepa, Gee, Walton, Zmuda, Medina, Heminger

Noes: None

Absent: Cohen

#### Public Comment

Aleta Dupree commented on Item 8.b. variances and fund balances and Item 8.d. diesel fuel contracts.

Adrian Brandt commented on the diesel fuel expense for rescue locomotives.

#### **9. Receive State and Federal Legislative Update and Consider Positions on Legislation: Assembly Bill 476 (Gonzalez) and Senate Bill 63 (Wiener)**

Jason Baker, Director of Government and Community Affairs, provided the presentation that included the following:

Federal:

- Tariffs impact
- Earmark appropriations

State:

- Governor spotlighted Caltrain and seeking extension of state and local cap and trade programs
- \$2 billion budget request included to bridge funding for Caltrain
- Assembly Bill (AB) 1372 Caltrain energy bill for regenerative braking and net energy capture not moving forward
- Senate Bill (SB) 30 resale and transfer restrictions of diesel-powered equipment; concerns with language and need to emphasize air quality benefit
- AB 810 will require local governments to change websites and email addresses address to ".gov"; significant staff and financial resources to comply
- AB 476 copper wire theft prevention
- SB 63 regional transportation funding measure amendments

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

- Support AB 476
- Support SB 63
  - Mapping and wayfinding expenditures

- Santa Clara County and San Mateo County have until July to opt in to regional transit measure
- Amendments happening after July 31
- Focus on the health of Caltrain; support as amended and continue to work on future amendments with bill authors

Motion to support AB 476/Second: Medina/Gee

Ayes: Abe-Koga, Burt, Canepa, Gee, Walton, Zmuda, Medina, Heminger

Noes: None

Absent: Cohen

Motion to support SB 63 as amended and to direct staff to continuing to work on future amendments with bill authors/Second: Heminger/Canepa

Ayes: Abe-Koga, Burt, Canepa, Gee, Walton, Zmuda, Medina, Heminger

Noes: None

Absent: Cohen

#### Public Comment

Aleta Dupree, Team Folds, spoke in support of AB 476 and SB 63, and commented on AB 1372.

Jean Perry commented on access to frequent, affordable public transit and spoke in support of the regional transit measure.

Kyle Thompson commented on rail transit, community connections, and climate change.

Adina Levin, Seamless Bay Area, commented on using regional multimodal transit, and spoke in support of a regional transit approach.

Jeff Carter spoke in support of SB 63, and commented AB 1372, AB 476, and copper theft.

Matt Jones, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, spoke in support of regional transit and SB 63.

Roland commented on cap-and-trade.

Anthony Lazarus commented on efficient and cost-effective regional transit system.

Javi commented on AB 810 and spoke in support of SB 63.

## **10. Receive Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Preliminary Operating and Capital Budgets**

Kate Jordan Steiner, Chief Financial Officer, provided the presentation that included the following:

### **Operating Budget:**

- Electrified service; increased ridership growth; increased material and labor costs
- Ongoing expenses outpacing revenue
- Projected deficit is better than Strategic Financial Plan
- Measure RR reserves will go away after FY 2026
- Operating budget sources increased; Fare revenue offset by Go Pass decline
- Operating and administrative expenses at 76 percent of budget; plans to reduce before June budget adoption
- Strategies to regain financial stability: ridership growth, fare revenue policy, consultant reduction, labor costs reduction
- Service cuts unlikely to reduce deficit and would damage Caltrain's business model

### **Capital Budget:**

- Priorities: safety, state of good repair (SOGR), and customer experience while Guadalupe River Bridges project is finalized
- Annual transfer of Measure RR to capital SOGR
- Use to support core services, including Guadalupe Bridge project
- Projected sources include STA (State Transit Assistance) SOGR
- Risks of underfunded capital program, cost escalation, flat member agency contributions

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

- \$2 billion budget request designated for Caltrain
- \$300 million funding category for CalMod available and staff working to develop plan; need participation by VTA (Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority)
- Low commuter ridership and service will be discussed at May 29 Board Workshop
- Limited service for South County; Discuss with VTA for options
- Member agency contributions challenge of one-third contributions; use current resources more effectively and expand eligibility; examine project needs over time
- Ongoing TASI (TransitAmerica Services, Inc.) salary negotiations
- Staff working on additional budget cuts; projecting no additional money coming from state; bridge cost must come from \$2 billion budget request

### **Public Comment**

Jeff Carter commented on ridership and service levels, crewing efficiencies, and maintenance.

Adrian Brandt commented on fare evasion enforcement and train conductor staffing.

Adina Levin, Seamless Bay Area, commented on collaborative approach with County partners and regional funding governance.

Roland commented on South Bay service and Measure RR ballot language.

Aleta Dupree, Team Folds, commented on electricity use cost, train frequency, SOGR, and assets.

John Hogan, Chief, Rail Operations, provided clarification on conductor pay and fare enforcement.

Ms. Bouchard announced the May 29 Board of Directors Workshop.

#### **11. Receive Update on Project Budget, Contract Capacity, and Funding Plan Increase for Guadalupe River Bridge Replacement Project**

Sherry Bullock, Program Director, Caltrain Modernization Program, and Casey Fromson, Chief of Staff, provided the presentation that included the following:

- Staff resubmitted full application to permit agencies
- Issued LNTF (Limited Notice to Proceed) to prepare for June 15 construction period
- Project challenges: multiple federal, state, and local agencies permitting; geographic location; water quality; wildlife protection; environmental concerns; safety; and customer service
- Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) to obtain conditional approval to start construction in June. Uncertainty with tariffs, labor, inflation, materials, project management costs
- Funding trade-offs required; de-energizing a portion of the project; temporary service changes
- Customer communication for service changes

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

- Funding from Union Pacific, Amtrak, and ACE (Altamont Corridor Express)
- Project costs to be folded into capital budget with any capital improvements
- Ongoing relationship with water quality board
- Contingency left in budget for the project

#### **Public Comment**

Roland commented on the bridge's uses and Union Pacific's contribution to the project.

Doug DeLong commented on the project plan.

Adrian Brandt commented on Tamien service ridership levels, project costs, and repairing the main track.

**12. Receive Caltrain Non-Fare Revenue Strategy Study Initial Results**

The item was deferred for discussion at the May 29 Board Budget Workshop.

**13. Reports**

**13.a. Report of the Citizens Advisory Committee** – Adrian Brandt, Chair, provided the report, which included the following:

- Safety measures to avoid trespasser strikes
- Service vision update
- Updating service plan
- Wireless crossing update – signaling needs adjustment
- Staff to explore adding a quiet car on each train; Clipper reader issues; Caltrain reimbursement for flat spot repair

*Director Walton left the meeting at 11:53 am.*

**13.b. Report of the Chair** – There was none.

**13.c. Report of the Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG)** – Chair Burt had nothing to report as there was no meeting in April.

**13.d. Report of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA)** - Chair Gee had nothing to report as there was no meeting in April.

**14. Correspondence** – Available online.

**15. Board Member Requests** – There were none.

**16. Date/Time/Location of Next Regular Meeting:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 9:00 am at via Zoom and in person at Bay Area Metro Center, 375 Beale Street, 1st Floor, Yerba Buena Room, San Francisco, CA 94105.

**17. Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 11:58 am.