

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

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

**Minutes of August 7, 2025**

**Members Present:** Margaret Abe-Koga (arrived at 9:05 am), Pat Burt, David Cohen, Jeff Gee, Shamann Walton, Monique Zmuda, Rico E. Medina (Vice Chair), Steve Heminger (Chair)

**Members Absent:** David J. Canepa

**Staff Present:** J. Baker, E. Bit, M. Bouchard, A. Brandt, C. Fromson, J. Harrison, L. Lumina-Hsu, D. Ryan, M. Tseng

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Heminger called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 and delivered the safety briefing.

**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**

Jeff Carter commented on bicyclist ridership levels and automatic passenger counter.

Roland commented on Battery electric multiple unit (BEMU) project schedule and midday and weekend service to Gilroy.

Aleta Dupree, Team Folds, commented on grade crossings, Clipper 2.0, and open payment system.

Adrian Brandt commented on May 29, 2025 Board of Directors Special Meeting Budget Workshop, distance-based fares, zone-based fares, conductors, and fare inspectors.

Adina Levin commented on Clipper, open payment system, and marketing new payment system.

**7. Closed Session: Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (§ 54956.9(d)(1)):  
[Merlino, et al vs. Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, et al, San Mateo Superior Court  
Case No. 23-CIV-00572]**

*The Board convened into closed session at 9:11 am.*

*The Board reconvened into regular session at 9:31 am.*

James Harrison, Legal Counsel, reported that there were no reportable actions.

**8. Report of the Executive Director**

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

- Safety installations and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology exploration
- Safety presentations at American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Rail Safety Workshop and APTA Rail Conference
- Caltrain awarded Rail Safety Gold Award
- Guadalupe River Bridge Project fish diversions
- 95.3 percent on-time performance in July; reached 1,000,000 riders in June 2025
- 35 percent farebox recovery
- Local sports teams partnerships and social media outreach
- Regional transit schedule updates and coordination via Bay Area Transit Reliability and Accessibility Network Scheduling Framework (TRANSFER) Plan

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

- Quiet cars research and implementation
- Broadway Burlingame, Churchill Palo Alto crossing improvements; Rail Sentry
- Weekday ridership levels during commute hours
- Automated passenger counter (APC) testing reached over 95 percent accuracy; implementing on entire fleet by end of August

**Public Comment**

Jeff Carter commented on grading crossings, rail sentry, ridership levels, transit coordination, and train service frequency.

Aleta Dupree, Team Folds, commented on ridership levels, untapped new riders, farebox recovery, and public transit transfers using different payment methods.

Adrian Brandt commented on rail sentry and automated enforcement of vehicle code violations.

Roland commented on current litigation, farebox and ridership recovery, and road markings.

## **9. Consent Calendar**

### **9.a. Approval of Meeting Minutes for**

- May 29, 2025 Special Meeting**
- June 5, 2025 Regular Meeting**
- July 23, 2025 Special Meeting**

### **9.b. Accept Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending April 30, 2025 and Accept Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending May 31, 2025**

### **9.c. Authorize the Submittal of an Application for San Mateo County Transportation Authority Cycle 3 Measure A Alternative Congestion Relief and Measure W Transportation Demand Management Program Funding – *Approved by Resolution No. 2025-31***

### **9.d. Approve and Ratify Fiscal Year 2026 Insurance Program – *Approved by Resolution No. 2025-32***

### **9.e. Authorize Executive Director to Exercise an Option to Extend the Term of the Current Agreement with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office for Law Enforcement Services for Five Years at an Estimated Cost of \$41,076,586 – *Approved by Resolution No. 2025-33***

### **9.f. Adopt Overall Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goal for Federal Fiscal Years 2026-2028 for Federal Transit Administration-Assisted Projects – *Approved by Resolution No. 2025-34***

### **9.g. Award a Cooperative Purchasing Contract to Convergent Technologies LLC to Provide Closed-Circuit Television Equipment for a Total Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$273,307\* – *Approved by Resolution No. 2025-35***

### **9.h. Award Contracts to Corey, Canapary & Galanis and EMC Research, Inc. for On-Call Market Research and Survey Services for an Aggregate Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$2.1 million for a Three-Year Base Term, with up to Two Additional One-Year Option Terms\* – *Approved by Resolution No. 2025-36***

### **9.i. Award a Master Service Agreement of Radio Dispatch System to Penta Corporation for a Total Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$850,000 for a Four-Year Term\* – *Approved by Resolution No. 2025-37***

### **9.j. Authorize the Executive Director to Execute an Agreement for the Use of Diridon Station with Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority – *Approved by Resolution No. 2025-38***

### **9.k. Authorize Executive Director to Execute Two Memoranda of Understanding with San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA) and City of Burlingame for Broadway Burlingame Grade Separation\*\* – *Approved by Resolution No. 2025-39***

Motion/Second: Medina/Walton

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

Noes: None

Absent: Canepa

#### **10. Receive Update on Capital Project Cost Growth**

Chair Heminger and Ms. Bouchard introduced Peter Rogoff, The Contorta Group, who provided the presentation that included the following:

- Influences on construction pricing; reviewed factors under JPB's control
- Worldwide increasing cost challenges impact all major infrastructure areas
- Supply chain challenges impact 55 percent of industry; rising pricing; tariffs uncertainty keep prices high and volatile
- Transit projects with specialized components and long lead times for procurement
- Skilled labor and retaining skilled labor shortage across all crafts and disciplines
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors and Science Act of 2022 (CHIPS and Science Act) federal funding projects nationwide
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) companies pay premium for data centers drawing contractors
- Interest rates remain high; reduced competition in marketplace; public works projects receiving less bids
- Contractors avoiding uncertainty: favoring projects that have less complexity, less uncertainty, and less risk or shared risk with project owner; clear path to profitability for contractors
- Best practices to contain costs included:
  - Bringing contractors in earlier to learn all details of project and eliminate unknowns
  - Contractor stipends to keep competitors interested in projects
  - Bundle contracts and sequency work to bring in more bidders
  - Align project delivery timelines with labor availability

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

- Engineer cost estimates and final project costs; challenge of initial cost estimates has projects at 0 to 30 percent designs
- Cost management and increases; state guidelines on contingency
- Owner role in managing cost increases and mitigate project changes
- Mega-projects trend line; affects ability to hire local capacity
- Public owner needs to change project management and delivery; share in cost; bid portions of project based on specialties
- Design-Bid-Build (DBB), Design-Build (DB), and Construction Management / General Contractor (CMGC) approaches

- Supply chain disruption and labor shortages; historical underinvestment of infrastructure projects; feasibility of projects, engagement with local legislature
- Trade schools, training, development, apprenticeship programs, pipeline schools have decreased over time

#### Public Comment

Jeff Carter commented on skilled labor, change orders, high-speed rail project costs, project delays due to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and increase project delays and costs.

Roland commented on private versus public project owners and engineering approach of projects.

Aleta Dupree, Team Folds, commented on contracting complexity, labor shortage, and trades workforce.

Doug DeLong commented on affordable housing, homelessness, technology industry effect on local economy, and venture capital industry.

Adina Levin, Seamless Bay Area, commented on addressing project costs, trades programs, and Transit Transformation Task Force.

Paul Wendt commented on capital project cost growth presentation.

### **11. Receive State and Federal Legislative Update and Consideration of Positions on Legislation: Senate Bill 30 (Cortese)**

Jason Baker, Director of Government and Communication Affairs, and Devon Ryan, Government Affairs Officer, provided the presentation that included the following:

#### **Federal**

- Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill advanced out of committee; conference committee negotiations take place in September
- June 30 Department of Transportation (DOT) released new revisions to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) include deadline reforms and page limits on environmental reviews
- Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) formally terminated two Federal grant agreements totaling \$4 billion for California High-Speed Rail; California is suing

#### **State**

- Caltrain's priority programs Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) and Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) maintained

- Budget includes \$750 million emergency loan program from General Fund for select Bay Area transit agencies including Caltrain which only takes into effect if Senate Bill (SB) 63 passes
- SB 63: San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) Board of Directors voted to opt-in on August 6, 2025; Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) will discuss and decide whether or not to opt-in on August 7, 2025

#### SB 30 (Cortese)

- Recommend oppose unless amended to include changing engine removal requirement to disable engine
- Bill prohibits public rail agencies from selling, donating, or otherwise transferring lower tier locomotives
- Bill targets only public passenger rail agencies, not freight rail, and pertains to only 1 percent of locomotives in the state

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

- Bill was in response to Caltrain transaction with Lima, Peru
- Lima, Peru has title to all the trains; transaction completed; no Lima-owned trains on Caltrain properties
- Caltrain has nine diesel locomotives in operation for Gilroy-service, not subject to Lima, Peru transaction
- Previous amendments have been accepted; continue to advocate for more amendments

Substitute Motion to support if amended/Second: Abe-Koga/Gee

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

Noes: None

Absent: Canepa

#### Public Comment

Aleta Dupree, Team Folds, commented on SB 30.

Adina Levin commented on SB 30, diesel trains service to Gilroy, and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) opt-in or opt-out decision for SB 63.

Roland spoke in support of SB 30 if amended, and commented on Gilroy service, ridership levels, and express lane revenues.

Adrian Brandt spoke in support of SB 30 if amended, and commented on Peru commuter rail service, electrification throughout California, and freight rail locomotive emissions.

*Directors Gee and Walton left the meeting at 11:18 am.*

**12. Reports**

**12.a. Report of the Citizens Advisory Committee** – Adrian Brandt, Chair, stated the July 16, 2025 meeting was cancelled.

**12.b. Report of the Chair** - Chair Heminger stated there was no report.

**12.c. Report of the Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG)** - Chair Burt stated the July 24, 2025 LPMG meeting was cancelled and the next meeting is September 25, 2025.

**12.d. Report of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA)** - The item was deferred.

Public Comment

Roland commented on allowing members of the public to make presentations to CAC.

**13. Correspondence** – Available online.

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

**15. Date/Time/Location of Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, September 4, 2025 at 9:00 am at via Zoom and in person at the San Mateo County Transit District, Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor, 1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA.**

**16. Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 11:21 am.