

**Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
Board of Directors
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070**

Minutes of November 6, 2025

Members Present: Pat Burt, David Cohen (arrived at 9:02am), Jeff Gee, Shamann Walton, Steve Heminger (Chair)

Members Present via Teleconference: Rico E. Medina (Vice Chair)

Members Absent: Margaret Abe-Koga, David J. Canepa

Staff Present: J. Baker, M. Bouchard, A. Brandt, C. Fromson, J. Harrison, J. Jest, M. Jones, M. Louie, L. Lumina-Hsu, D. Ryan, B. Thompson, 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.

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

Audrey Brook commented on human resources due process and policy, accountability, employment competitive process, and public trust.

James Dal Bon commented on due process law, Equal Employment Opportunity laws, and fiscal accountability.

Jeff Carter commented on San Francisco station boarding process and fare checks.

Roland commented on battery electric multiple units (BEMU) design and costs.

Aleta Dupree, Team Folds, commented on Clipper 2 implementation.

Aaron Posternack commented on service disruptions, vehicular traffic violations, and camera enforcement technology.

Doug DeLong commented on audio issues.

7. Closed Session: Public Employee Performance Evaluation: General Counsel (Gov. Code § 54957(b)(1))

The Board convened into closed session at 9:17 am.

The Board reconvened into regular session at 9:50 am.

8. General Counsel Report – Report Out from Above Closed Session

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

Public Comment

Roland was unable to provide public comment due to audio technical issues.

9. Report of the Executive Director

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

- Safety activities: Transit police high-visibility patrols, suicide prevention engagement
- State Bridge Loan for Bay Area transit agencies application due by January 10, 2026
- Senate Bill (SB) 63 efficiency review required for Caltrain; Caltrain must adopt selected strategies by July 1, 2026
- Upcoming meetings to address budget shortfall
- Looking at improvements at grade crossings; Refreshed all 9-8-8 texting signage
- Budget workshop; data-driven recommendations and preparation of budget shortfall
- September: On-time performance at 94 percent; over 1 million riders, total ridership recovery at 66 percent; maintained cleanliness at stations
- Special events partnership with Peninsula sports teams; upcoming preparation for Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and Super Bowl
- December 13 - Holiday train onboard experience

Theodore Burgwyn, Director, Rail Networks and Operation Planning, provided an update on the recent fleet challenges that included the following:

- October mechanical issues and Caltrain fell below 14 trainsets which is below the 16 trainsets minimum to run full weekday revenue service
- Stadler sent additional engineers to work on affected trainsets
- Mitigating the issue with the four new trainsets being manufactured

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

- Monthly updates until trainset mechanical issues are resolved
- Train fleet size based on goal for electrification delivery; four train sets are being manufactured with 2026 delivery; total train set size will be 24
- SB 63 polling results with support by county; San Mateo County and Santa Clara County weak support for SB 63, however, survey respondents support of Caltrain

Public Comment

Jeff Carter commented on train set ongoing repairs, Clipper 2.0 inclusion of monthly pass, and zone upgrades.

Roland commented on Bay Area Transit District (BART) fare inspection process, ridership count methods, and electric multiple unit (EMU) maintenance.

Aleta Dupree, Team Folds, commented on holiday ugly sweater, equipment warranty, and ridership recovery.

Adina Levin, Seamless Bay Area, Friends of Caltrain, commented on ridership levels, Clipper 2 December 10 launch date, open payment system, free transfer feature, ridership convenience, and SB 63.

Doug DeLong commented on fleet challenges, train maintenance, and subsystem suppliers.

10. Consent Calendar

10.a. Approval of Meeting Minutes for October 9, 2025

10.b. Adopt 2026 Meeting Calendar

10.c. Accept Statements of Revenues and Expenses for the Periods Ending June 30, 2025, and August 31, 2025

10.d. Amend and Increase the Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Budget from \$66,491,608 to \$92,641,608 – *Approved by Resolution No. 2025-52*

10.e. Authorize Amendment 2 to Contract with Olson Remcho LLP for General Counsel and Other Legal Services* – *Approved by Resolution No. 2025-51*

Motion to approve Items 10.a., 10.b., 10.c., and 10.e./Second: Burt/Cohen

Ayes: Burt, Cohen, Gee, Walton, Medina, Heminger

Noes: None

Absent: Abe-Koga, Canepa

Item 10.d. *Amend and Increase the Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Budget from \$66,491,608 to \$92,641,608* was pulled for further discussion. Staff provided further clarification in response to the following Board comments and questions regarding the removal of \$5 million San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) funding as discussions with SFCTA are ongoing.

The City and County of San Francisco will not provide additional member contribution to Caltrain or the Guadalupe Bridge Project until the governance conversation has concluded.

Motion to approve Item 10.d./Second: Gee/Cohen
Ayes: Burt, Cohen, Gee, Walton, Medina, Heminger
Noes: None
Absent: Abe-Koga, Canepa

Public Comment

Roland commented on earmark funding for Gilroy service, on-call contractors capacity, and battery electric multiple unit (BEMU) project.

11. Adopt Proposed Fare Structure and Caltrain Charter Train, Bike Locker, and Parking Fee Document Changes - Approved by Resolution No. 2025-53

Melissa Jones, Deputy Director for Policy Development, Bruce Thompson, Manager, Fare Program Operations, and Michelle Louie, Title VI Social Equity Administrator, provided the presentation that included the following:

- Current ridership levels, fare product usage, and zones traveled; Clipper usage at 71.6 percent
- Recommended fare structure gradual, incremental fare increases
- Considerations: future ridership trends, price sensitivity, economic growth
- Revenue growth is primarily driven by ridership growth, not fare increases
- Current equity programs available for riders and upcoming with Clipper 2.0
- Recommended charter train flexibility in price negotiations based on customer needs; set rates case-by-case basis
- Title VI equity analysis: looked at data from Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) ridership, 2024 customer survey, and current/proposed fare structure; determined no disparate impact or disproportionate burden

Director Medina left the meeting at 10:38 am.

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

- Rider survey data was completed pre-COVID; no rider survey data post-COVID
- Base-fare and zone-fare increases; distance-traveled
- Low south Santa Clara County (SCC) ridership levels; ridership growth in south SCC essential for growth and survival of Caltrain system
- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) partnership for marketing and ridership growth
- South County users hurdle with transferring between trains
- In-depth fare study; rider demographic changes post-pandemic; current rider elasticity; commute, weekend, off-peak, infrequent rider demographics
- Gradual fare increases to cover costs; static fare price all hours and all days
- Clipper discount and market share, and ticket machines
- Accepting cash and low-income rider equity; access for riders over a range of income levels
- Disconnect between increased ridership growth and rate of revenue growth, GoPass and city partnerships

Motion by Director Cohen to accept staff recommendation for fare increases for FY26 through January 1, 2028 but delay action on recommendations for FY29 through January 1, 2030.

Second by Chair Heminger.

Public Comment

Jeff Carter spoke in support of the amended motion, rider survey for price elasticity, equity and usage of cash, and increase South County service to increase ridership.

Adina Levin commented on fare increases and issues raised by Directors, public transit rider support, analysis strategies, multi-agency fare strategies, and multi-agency passes.

Aleta Dupree, Team Folds, Skirt Folds, spoke in support of fare increases and commented on transparency, Clipper, open payment, and cash.

Roland commented on cash, fare box recovery, train car length, and South Bay service.

Adrian Brandt commented on fare structure, distance-based fares, per-mile price for riding Caltrain, and increasing ridership.

Chair Heminger asked Director Cohen to restate the motion before the Board.

Amended Motion by Director Cohen to move fare increase proposals for FY26, FY27, and FY28, and at a future Board of Directors meeting, discuss further fare proposals for FY29 through January 1, 2030, with data from staff exploring the issues raised by Directors.

Second by Chair Heminger.

Ayes: Burt, Cohen, Heminger

Noes: Gee, Walton

Absent: Abe-Koga, Canepa, Medina

Motion failed.

Motion by Director Walton to accept staff recommendation as proposed.

Friendly amendment by Director Gee: Add to motion to direct staff bring to the Board a plan to study items proposed by Board, timeline, and budget. Friendly amendment accepted by Director Walton.

Second by Director Gee.

Ayes: Burt, Gee, Walton, Heminger

Noes: Cohen

Absent: Abe-Koga, Canepa, Medina

Motion failed.

Ms. Bouchard explained the Board would need to approve any fare changes for January 1, 2026, at the meeting to be able to implement in the Clipper system.

Amended Motion by Director Cohen: Approve January 1, 2026, fare increase and remainder of item to return to the full Board for consideration at the December 4, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting.

Friendly amendment by Chair Heminger: Add to motion to direct staff to provide a list of outstanding issues identified by the Board.

Second by Director Walton.

Ayes: Burt, Cohen, Gee, Walton, Heminger

Noes: None

Absent: Abe-Koga, Canepa, Medina

12. Receive Results of the Annual Caltrain Customer Satisfaction Survey

Julian Jest, Manager of Market Research, provided the presentation that included the following:

- 93 percent Caltrain riders satisfied with overall experience
- Increased service and frequency levels important to riders; also valued cleanliness, comfort of ride, and onboard Wi-Fi
- Safety – lower rate of growth year over year but already at high satisfaction levels
- Overall satisfaction level drivers: on-time performance, onboard announcements, train interior cleanliness, current schedule, conductor announcements about delays, printed materials, communication of delays and train arrivals
- Addressing rider priorities

Public Comment

Jeff Carter commented on electric service, onboard displays not working, and surveys and data on website no longer available.

Adrian Brandt commented on station safety, public space at stations and paid station areas, and station pedestrian areas and gates.

Samuel Wu commented on electrified service, and improve alerts and major disruption communications.

Adina Levin commented on communication, Diridon and Millbrae cross-platforms transfers, and open public station areas.

13. Receive State and Federal Legislative Update

Chair Heminger stated the information in the packet and accepted without presentation.

14. Reports

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

- Citizens Advisory Committee zoom issues that those online were not heard within the public meeting room
- Customer Satisfaction Survey Results
- Wi-Fi, restrooms, malfunctioning onboard screens
- Fare structure changes; distance-based fares
- Automatic Passenger Counters (APC)
- Tamien bus bridge
- Bayshore Station elevator outages
- Train brakes squeaking

14.b. Report of the Chair - Chair Heminger stated United States Representative Nancy Pelosi will be eligible to have a train named in her honor and for staff to explore the option.

14.b.i. Appointment of JPB Representative to SB 63 Oversight Committee

Chair Heminger announced the appointment of Director Gee as the JPB representative to the Senate Bill 63 Oversight Committee.

14.c. Report of the Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG) - Chair Burt stated there was nothing to report.

14.d. Report of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) - Chair Gee stated there was nothing to report.

Director Walton left at 11:58 am.

Director Cohen left at 11:59 am.

15. Correspondence – Available online.

16. Board Member Requests – Director Burt requested an item for the December Board meeting to discuss conducting a performance audit of shared services.

17. Date/Time/Location of Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, December 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.

18. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.