

CalMod Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG)
Summary Meeting Notes for August 26, 2021

Summary Notes

The purpose of these notes is to capture key discussion items and actions identified for subsequent meetings.

City / County	Representative or Alternate	Present
Atherton	M. Lempres	
Belmont	T. McCune	X
Brisbane	T. O'Connell	
Burlingame	E. Beach	X
Gilroy	R. Armendariz	X
Menlo Park	J. Wolosin	X
Millbrae	G. Papan	
Mountain View	M. Abe-Koga	
Morgan Hill	R. Constantine	X
Palo Alto	P. Burt	X
Redwood City	M. Smith	X
San Bruno	M. Salazar	X
San Carlos	L. Parmer-Lohan	X
San Francisco	A. Sweet	
San Jose	S. Jimenez	
San Mateo	A. Lee	X
Santa Clara	A. Becker	X
South San Francisco	E. Flores	X
Sunnyvale	A. Cisneros	X
San Francisco BOS	TBD	
San Mateo BOS	TBD	
Santa Clara BOS	TBD	
Chair	Jeff Gee	X
Vice Chair	Emily Beach	X

VACANT SEATS: Santa Clara BOS, San Francisco BOS, San Mateo BOS

CALTRAIN STAFF: Casey Fromson, Sebastian Petty, Jadie Wasilco, Ted Burgwyn, Ryan McCauley

1. Call to Order

Chair Jeff Gee called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. Staff Report

Casey Fromson, Acting Chief Communications Officer, introduced a new member of the Caltrain team, Jadie Wasilco, as the new Manager of Government and Community Affairs for Caltrain. Fromson also provided updates on Caltrain's efforts to fill the funding gap for the electrification project through both state and federal sources.

LPMG members' key comments regarding the staff update:

- A member asked about the prospects for state funding for grade separations. (*Caltrain staff said that they are hopeful that if a deal comes to fruition they are hopeful that funding would be available, but it is with the members now.*)

Public Comments:

- A member of the public commented that the agenda packet should be publically available sooner. They also shared that they had heard a proposed deal for the state to allocate \$3 billion to High-Speed Rail and \$600 million to both northern and southern California. They added that for northern California, that funding would go to the Downtown Extension project, not grade separations.

3. Caltrain Electrification Project: Construction and Vehicle Manufacturing Update

Ryan McCauley, Caltrain's Government and Community Affairs Specialist, provided an update to members on the Caltrain Electrification construction and train manufacturing process. The project completed installation of poles and foundations in segments three and four (from Menlo Park to San Jose). Caltrain expects the first trainset arrive to the corridor in the first quarter of 2022.

LPMG members' key comments regarding the staff update:

- A member asked when staff sees electrification coming online. (*Caltrain staff answered that the project is on track to be completed in 2024.*)

Public Comments:

- A member of the public commented that they do not believe they can energize the line until the signal system for the whole line is converted from analog to digital. They also added that they do not believe Caltrain has the ability to store and move the new electric trains.

4. Caltrain: Service Restoration

Ted Burgwyn, Director of Rail Network and Operations, presented on the new Caltrain service, effective August 30. The new schedule seeks to balance flexible workplace conditions and recapture commuter markets, address system inequities in Caltrain service, and build new ridership markets.

LPMG members' key comments regarding the Service Restoration presentation:

- A member asked if staff can provide reasons to the disproportionately small share of low-income riders making below \$25,000 a year and if it was related to the amount of trains offered. (*Caltrain staff noted that the presentation refers to historical numbers and that the new*

(schedule seeks to provide increased options for low-income riders who do not travel during typical commute hours.) The member followed up noting that they believe the fare price could also be a deterrent for low-income riders and asked if the agency is looking at lowering fares or offering low-income discount programs. *(Caltrain staff noted that during their study, they discovered that a higher percentage of low-income riders and riders of color rode Caltrain in the mid-day and off peak periods. Staff noted that as part of the service strategy, Caltrain would add trains during those periods to help better serve those riders. Staff added that they agree that fares are a barrier and that the agency is taking steps to make the system more accessible. This includes participation in the Clipper Start Program, an MTC run pilot program offering 50% off discounts to low-income riders, delaying previously approved fare increases, and launching the Caltrain Go Pass Donation Program. Staff noted that these are all pilot efforts that can be done in the short-term, but the agency is looking to address issues in the longer-term.)* The member followed up asking if Caltrain will be analyzing ridership data during the 50% off promotion. *(Caltrain staff answered yes.)*

- A member offered their compliments to staff on the new schedule and noted their appreciation for increased mid-day service.
- A member also offered their compliments on the new schedule and asked if the Equity Policy will drive changes to the Caltrain app in order to optimize for trip planning and purchasing different types of passes. *(Staff noted that the Equity Policy directs staff to look at how communications are delivered to riders as well as optimizing transfers to other transit systems. Staff noted that they are not there yet, but are working towards steps to improve the experience.)*

Public Comments:

- A member of the public commented that they believe the Google Maps provides good transit trip planning. They added that they believe the new schedule should turn some of the Gilroy trains into Baby Bullet trains. They also noted their concern on Caltrain providing five car-trains.
- An alternate member thanked staff for the presentation, and asked staff to share materials that can be easily shared with constituents about the increased service. They also asked if there are any efforts to electrify the line south of San Jose through Gilroy. *(Chair Gee noted that staff could set up a meeting to help brief the member on project history and track ownership.)*

5. Caltrain: Ridership Promotion

Casey Fromson, Acting Chief Communication Officer, presented on how Caltrain is promoting the new Caltrain service, the discount promotions being offered, and some of the new outreach techniques being utilized for the campaign.

LPMG members' key comments regarding the Service Restoration presentation:

- A member thanked staff for sending them the information in such an easily shareable way. The member also asked if staff had sent the same materials to city staff. *(Caltrain staff answered that it has been sent to city staff, but any reminders from city councilmembers is appreciated.)*

Public Comments:

- A member of the public commented that they believe they should be careful with the marketing efforts to ensure the greatest bang for their buck. They asked if the communications will be done in multiple languages and how many train cars will be wrapped. They also asked if staff could provide a total budget for the outreach efforts, the cost of the discount to Caltrain, and which revenue sources are being used. (*Staff noted that this campaign is part of the regional All Aboard Bay Area Transit campaign, but do not have a specific dollar amount for the budget.*) Chair Gee asked if staff could expand on some of the non-English language outreach. (*Staff answered that several of the outreach materials were translated into languages other than English, one of the Instagram chats will be in Spanish, and all of the MTC produced materials are in multiple languages.*)
- An alternate member noted that these outreach tactics are phenomenal and asked if major corporations had been asked to provide bus service from stations to buildings. (*Caltrain staff answered that they put together a network of employers that Caltrain regularly corresponds with and work to solve first mile/last mile connectivity challenges. Staff also added that there are a variety of ways Caltrain is involved with shuttles to and from stations and unfortunately, the funding and operations has been heavily impacted by COVID-19.*)

6. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

- A member of the public commented that believe there should be additional service south of San Jose through Gilroy and believes that is at the heart of the Governance discussions. They also believe that the new stations being built by Caltrain need to have level-boarding.

7. LPMG Member Comments/Requests

- A member noted that they had heard from some of their constituents to request that conductors not lean on the horn, but to do a shorter beep.

8. Next Meeting

Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.