

**SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
1250 SAN CARLOS AVENUE, SAN CARLOS CA 94070
BACCIOCCO AUDITORIUM, 2ND FLOOR**

MINUTES OF JANUARY 2, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: B. Arietta, J. Bigelow, P. Dixon (Chair), R. Hedges, S. Krause, D. Maez, A. Mader-Clark, L. Shaine, N. Stern, A. Vargas, P. Young (Vice-Chair), G. Zimmerman

MEMBERS ABSENT: R. Gomez, R. Hees

STAFF PRESENT: J. Hurley, R. Lake

Chair Pat Dixon called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On page five, "Mr. Arietta" should read, "*Ms. Arietta.*" Also on page five, in the fifth paragraph, "is" should read "*his.*" With these revisions, a motion (Bigelow/Zimmerman) was passed to approve the minutes of December 4, 2007.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Giorni, Burlingame, asked if the TA could possibly subsidize the purchase of fold-up bicycles. She said passengers could leave their bicycles in storage at the stations and carry the fold-up bicycles on the train. This could alleviate bicycle capacity on cars, especially on Bombardier cars, which carry fewer bicycles. Ms. Giorni said fold-up bicycles cost about \$400. Jim Bigelow said the Peninsula Congestion Relief Alliance bought 300-400 bicycles a number of years ago to encourage people to cut vehicle use. He said the Alliance might be interested in a program to partner with employees and pay half the cost of a bicycle as an incentive to ride.

ITEMS FOR REVIEW – TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING AGENDA OF JANUARY 3, 2008

Item 5a) Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenses for November 2007

George Zimmerman said that in preparing projected tax revenues for calendar year 2008 staff should take into consideration the likelihood of an economic downturn. Director of TA programs Joe Hurley said FY2007 sales tax was \$66.2 million and budgeted at \$65.4 million in FY2008. The TA is \$800,000 over the projected revenue on a prorated basis for FY2008. Sales tax revenue is monitored closely and no adjustment is predicted for the balance of FY2008 at this time.

Item 9) SamTrans Liaison Report

Mr. Zimmerman asked what affects there would be on TA projects if the governor suspends Proposition 42 funds. Mr. Hurley said there is a good chance the governor will declare a fiscal emergency with a \$14 billion State budget deficit and pull \$1.4 billion of Proposition 42 funds to support the general fund. This could mean the TA would not see any additional STIP money, which is the primary matching source of funds for our highway projects and some transit projects.

Item 10) Joint Powers Board Report

Doris Maez said Caltrain will be going to a 98 train schedule and when service was added in the past on time performance decreased but gradually recovered. She asked if scheduling might have to be adjusted because the report said that on time performance has been affected by more bicycle use and people needing assistance in boarding and these things should be taken into account when setting a schedule. Mr. Hurley said Caltrain felt there was both the market and time slot to be able to add the additional trains and staff will continue to watch ridership and on time performance closely.

Item 5b) Authorize Allocation of \$898,969 in Measure A Funds to the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board for Design, Utility Relocation and Advance Materials Procurement Associated with the South San Francisco Station Project

Mr. Hurley said the allocation will provide the 20 percent local match to the JPB to secure an additional \$3,595,874 in federal funding to complete the design, utility relocation and procurement of rail material associated with the station project. Total allocations equal \$11,127,030 of which 23 percent or \$2,593,969 comes from Measure A. The project is primarily driven by a need to eliminate the hold out rule. The project is scheduled to begin construction in October of 2008 with completion in spring of 2010.

Mr. Hurley showed a slide detailing the current configuration for the South San Francisco Station Project to include construction of a center platform and fencing to eliminate the hold out rule, access controls and pedestrian gates for safety, a pedestrian underpass connecting the west and east sides of the station, and construction of a shuttle drop-off.

Steve Krause asked if there has been community input on the project. Mr. Hurley said there has been input and the pedestrian under crossing, which is underneath Highway 101, has been the main issue. The crossing has been challenging because Caltrans wants to make sure the underpass does not undermine the structural integrity of Highway 101.

Ms. Maez said the underpass ramp would be 96 feet long because of the required slope. She asked if there would be a combination of stairs and ramps. Mr. Hurley said he did not know at this point if there would be stairs and ramps in the project.

Paul Young said this station is poorly lit and unsafe at night. Mr. Hurley said project staff is working closely with the police on lighting issues.

Nancy Stern said that Genentech is adjacent to the station and asked that safety be considered with the shuttle service from the station during and after the construction. Mr. Hurley said he would note this.

Mr. Zimmerman said the project will not make the station any more accessible for pedestrians to downtown South San Francisco. Mr. Hurley said if the shuttle drop off is located at the abandoned Caltrans maintenance yard south of Grand Avenue and west of the railroad tracks there would be opportunities for safer crossing along Airport Boulevard.

Rich Hedges asked if there would be stairs on the underpass ramp for people who are ambulatory. Mr. Hurley said he will check the design for stairs. Chair Dixon said if the underpass has stairs there would need to be flat areas on each side of the stairs to push a bicycle up or down.

Mr. Hedges asked how many people use the station. Mr. Hurley said over 500 per weekday but there is a lot of growth in the area and Genentech has huge projections in terms of growth.

Barbara Arietta said the parking lot is dark and scary but many baseball fans use it at night.

Ms. Maez asked what the total cost of the project would be and if there were plans to move the station in the future. Mr. Hurley said the project costs are about \$50 million. He said that with this type of investment the station would probably not be moved and is in the best location. Jim Bigelow said that there have been plans for ten years to move the station but the hope is that all the employees in the area will be using the new station.

Chair Dixon asked if there will be design drawings available for review of ramps, etc.
Mr. Hurley said he will invite the project manager to a CAC meeting to address issues and concerns.

Ms. Maez said safety is an issue at the station and there is a need for surveillance cameras.

Ms. Stern asked if there would be some sort of shelter at the station to abate CAC members' safety concerns. Mr. Hurley said there will be a standard Caltrain shelter.

Austin Mader-Clark said that the station serves mostly business travelers and it would be difficult to make it safe at night.

A motion (Zimmerman/Arietta) was passed to endorse the South San Francisco station project to include safety and lighting provisions.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Dixon wished everyone a Happy New Year.

REPORT FROM STAFF

Mr. Hurley gave a presentation on the End-of-Year Report/2008 Forecast:

- Ramp metering was introduced on Highway 101 in January 2007 and travel time between 3rd Avenue in San Mateo to the county line decreased from 35 to 25 minutes. The program will be expanded north over the next few years.
- The travel time information system went online in the summer of 2007. The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) highlighted the successful program in their nationwide publication. Data show that at 5:45 p.m. southbound from Millbrae to San Jose on Highway 101, train travel time is 43 minutes and vehicle travel time is 63 minutes.
- A hydrogen shuttle, one of the first in California, was introduced in December 2007 in East Palo Alto.
- There is more than \$200 million in construction activity in the county. Some of the projects include the following: the 3rd Avenue to Millbrae Auxiliary Lane Project (\$156 million project funding), the Route 92 Half Moon Bay widening (\$20.4 million project funding) and reconstruction of the Burlingame Caltrain Station (\$20 million project funding).
- 2008 projects include continued studies on the grade separation program and footprint studies, design on the bridge replacements for Poplar, Santa Inez, and Monte Diablo and Tilton avenues. Support will continue for Caltrain electrification, Dumbarton Rail and the Downtown Extension. Highway planning efforts include additional auxiliary lane projects and interchange projects along Highway 101 and the coast.

Comments/Questions

Ms. Arietta asked when the Calera Project EIR in Pacifica is estimated to be completed. Mr. Hurley said mid-2009.

Ms. Arietta asked how far the widening of Highway 92 will extend. Mr. Hurley said it is about 400 feet beyond the Half Moon Bay city limits. He said the project was broken into three components: an eastbound truck climbing lane from Pilarcitos Creek up to Highway 35 which is completed, the Route 1/92 Half Moon Bay Widening Project and the curve correction project to Pilarcitos Creek.

Ms. Maez said it is difficult to measure travel time. She thought there was some fudging in terms of ~~Highway 101~~ Caltrain travel times because the time that counts is the time it takes a person to leave their home to get to their destination which could include the time a person sits on city streets to get onto Highway 101.

Mr. Hedges said driving also involves environmental and safety issues and the cost of gasoline which can be affected positively by proper vehicle maintenance, better gas mileage and humane driving habits. He said a Caltrain passenger could also begin a day's work with WiFi availability on the train.

Ms. Stern asked if there is a location for the South San Francisco ferry. Mr. Hurley said it will be at the Oyster Point Marina. He said he would ask the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) to present the project to the CAC.

Ms. Maez asked if the Air District has made any studies on the impact of air quality due to vehicle idling at ramp metering lights. Mr. Hurley said studies have been done and positively received by the MTC that is a strong proponent of ramp metering.

Mr. Young said if vehicle speed limits were lowered to 55 miles per hour train travel time would be much faster than vehicle travel time and vehicles could get about 3 percent better gas mileage.

Jim Bigelow said he sits on the San Mateo City/County Association of Governments Committee on Congestion Management and Environmental Quality (CMEQ), which has a traffic model that takes into account all Measure A projects for the auxiliary lanes and looks at air quality benefits. The number one project that helps air quality is auxiliary lanes that run from one end of the county to the other.

Ms. Arietta said a benefit for lowered speed limits would be enhanced vehicle operation and ~~lowered~~ increased gas mileage which is of paramount importance to the inverse relationship of the price of oil and gas.

Mr. Krause asked when the footprint studies would be completed. Mr. Hurley said the schedule is to have all locations completed by the end of 2008.

Chair Dixon asked if the Woodside interchange would include an extension of Bayfront coming down from Marsh. Mr. Hurley said the project involves only modification of the interchange which is in the environmental process.

MEMBER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mr. Bigelow said he attended the December 19 meeting of High Speed Rail (HSR). The HSR Authority Board recommended the Pacheco Pass alignment alternative from Gilroy up through San Jose onto the Caltrain right of way to the Transbay Terminal in San Francisco. Additional recommendations included speeding up rail opportunities between the Modesto area and the East Bay. Mr. Bigelow said, based on

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legal opinion, the HSR Authority Board is not required to take any official action; it can hear from the public and stakeholders and if they do not take exception to the staff recommendations, the HSR Authority Board would take no action and the staff would then be authorized to proceed to complete the

final EIR and EIS document so it could be certified by the HSR Authority Board in March or April. HSR staff is working with the federal government and has a draft partnership for a federal funding agreement with the goal to have final federal funding in place prior to the November 2008 HSR \$9.9 billion ballot measure. There are funding partnerships trying to secure about \$30 billion for HSR costs to go from San Francisco to Los Angeles/Anaheim.

Mr. Shaine said he is hearing more and more about electrification and would like a presentation at the CAC. He said electrification will probably require more and faster trains in stations. He has heard that the city of Millbrae has plans for two Caltrain tracks and that this could be problem with future electrification plans and additional trains. Mr. Hurley said there is an issue specific to Millbrae in terms of right of way for three tracks but not four. He said the city is working from an operational standpoint to see what the need is, what the developer is proposing to do and working closely with them in terms of making sure there is something that works out for both parties with two groups using the same piece of land.

Mr. Hurley said there are plans to present a status report on electrification and the Dumbarton Rail Corridor Plan.

Mr. Zimmerman asked if the District could provide schedules for adjacent transportation facilities, services such as BART and bus lines that overlap San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

Ms. Arietta asked if the CAC will be having a Measure A workshop for members. Mr. Hurley said a workshop can be organized if the members are interested.

Ms. Arietta said she would like a Devil's Slide tunnel tour. She offered to be on the planned transit-oriented development (TOD) subcommittee. Mr. Hedges said he is also interested in the TOD subcommittee.

Assistant District Secretary Rosemary Lake will poll members on whether to have the February 5 meeting on Election Day or move it to February 6.

Mr. Hurley said James Vreeland will be appointed at the January 3 TA meeting to represent North County. Director John Lee will be reappointed to represent Cities-a-Large and Director Rich Gordon will be reappointed to represent the Board of Supervisors.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the TA CAC may be held on Tuesday, February 5 or February 6, 2008, at 4:30 p.m. at 1250 San Carlos Avenue, Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor, San Carlos, CA 94070.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.