

Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) Summary
Meeting of March 6, 2025

Report of the Executive Director - Michelle Bouchard, Executive Director, provided a report which included the following:

- Safety at-grade crossings improvements at Broadway and Palo Alto include rail sentry, solar markers, roadway delineators, and fencing
- Suicide prevention program includes regular Board updates beginning in March and peer organization partnership
- Corridor crossing strategy centralized program planning to guide prioritization and metrics and address cost increases for at-grade crossings
- Caltrain poll results indicate a favorable opinion of Caltrain
- February achieved 94 percent on-time performance
- Operations and maintenance agreement; June 30, 2027 contract expiration; and upcoming bid process
- Customer service experience improvements include pilot station restrooms in Redwood City and Sunnyvale

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

- Request For Information (RFI) technology monitors results as a suicide prevention tool
- Partnership with community organizations for crisis interventions and to break down cultural barriers
- Boardway Burlingame crossing improvements
- Improve suicide means restrictions
- Best practices, education, and collaboration with press

JPB Board of Directors Received and Approved the Following Items:

- Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2025
- Authorize Executive Director to Execute a Primary Grant Agreement with the San Mateo County Transportation Authority for Future Measures A and W Funding
- Awarding On-Call Transportation Planning and Consultant Support Services to Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.; Fehr & Peers; and Mott MacDonald Group, Inc. for an Aggregate Total Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$60 Million for a Five-Year Base Term and up to an Additional \$20 Million for Two One-Year Option Terms
- Adopt Event Ticket Distribution Policy
- Adopt JPB Debarment Policy
- Adopt the Updated Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Guadalupe River Bridge Replacement Project

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- The application and usage of the debarment policy

Receive State and Federal Legislative Update and Consider Positions on Legislation: Senate Bill 71 (Wiener), Assembly Bill 394 (Wilson) – Casey Fromson, Chief of Staff, Jason Baker, Director of Government and Communication Affairs, and Devon Ryan, Government Affairs Officer, provided the presentation that included the following:

Federal:

- Thousands of federal workforce fired affecting delivery of government services
- Regulatory activities passed until current administration reviews and approves
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) ends Fiscal Year (FY) 2026
- Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) interim final rule to rescind National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations
- Federal funding freeze and IIJA funds disbursement uncertainty
- New policies regarding federal grants, loans, and other assistance which are unfavorable to public transit
- Secretary directed Department of Transportation (DOT) how DOT can unilaterally renew existing grant agreements to ensure compatibility with Executive Order

State:

- Continued partnership on Caltrain regenerative braking energy compensation
- Assembly Bill 1372 (Papan) addresses compensation for regenerative braking
- Senate Bill 71 (Wiener) removes sunset of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemptions for transit and transportation projects including stations, operating facilities, terminals that serve zero emissions passenger rail locations
- AB 394 (Wilson) expands safety and security from transit operators to include transit employees and passengers

Mr. Baker introduced Sara LaBatt EMC Research, Inc. who provided the presentation on Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) polling results that included the following:

- Methodology and review measures surveys of 1,500 respondents
- Key findings of voters included public transit funding need recognition, favorable opinion of Caltrain, reliance on driving as method of transportation, pessimism and tax hesitancy, and any transit improvements must lead to better access to jobs and reduce traffic congestion
- Voters most important problems are topped by affordable housing (27 percent), homelessness (25 percent), and cost of living (15 percent) but not public transportation (2 percent)
- Voter tax sensitivity increased since 2019

- Revenue measure scenarios achieve simple majority support however does not reach the two-thirds threshold

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

- Statewide \$20 billion transportation bond measure potentially on ballot and impact of a regional transit funding measure
- Addressing funding transits without tax or bond measures and potential partner agencies contributions
- Citizens initiatives option
- Voter elasticity of tax threshold of total taxes potentially amounting over 10 cents

Approve Guiding Principles and Goals for Rail Operations and Maintenance Successor

Contract – Graham Rogers, Project Manager, Rail Operations and Maintenance, and John Hogan, Chief Operating Officer, Rail, provided the presentation that included the following:

- Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) in March 2025 followed by discussions to inform development of procurement
- Award of Contract slated for Fall 2025. Nine months mobilization and transition period
- Guiding principles for contract development include safety, cost efficiency, innovation, reliability, capacity, stewardship, and partnership
- Successor contract goals include modern, flexible contract; safe, reliable, and excellent service; high safety standard; handover process without impact to staff and customers; and cost efficiencies

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

- Previous competitive bid process, six firms interested in next contract, quality of bids
- Request for Proposals (RFP) development and process
- Contractor insurance companies and risk management
- Include “responsiveness” in the contract goals and define differentiators for clarity on a successful firm

Monthly Reports were provided on the following items:

- Report of the Citizens Advisory Committee – Adrian Brandt, Chair, provided an update, which included the following:
 - Customer service initiatives, bicycle decals at station platforms, next generation Clipper, rider real-time notification, and improved signage
 - Committee comments include interior train car numbering, ADA accountability, luggage accommodation, Clipper 2.0 release, and train announcements

- Legislative updates including regenerative energy braking compensation and Federal staff firing affecting federal funding and grants processing
- Automatic passenger counters not working correctly, wireless crossing optimizations disabled at ten crossings near stations, and flat spots
- Upcoming Measure RR audit

Report of the Chair – Chair Heminger stated to restart of Governance Ad Hoc Committee to address outstanding items from the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) including:

- Joint Powers Agreement amendment
 - Complete JPB and San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) shared services agreement
 - CalPERS backstop for cost for the employees and unfunded approved liability cost of \$16 million
 - Equitably and fairly transition employees from one employee to another
 - Individual member agency contributions requirement
 - Explore funding alternatives if regional ballot measure does not go on the ballot or fails
- Report of the Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG) – Chair Burt had nothing to report as LPMG meets bimonthly.
 - Report of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) - Chair Gee had nothing to report as TJPA did not meet in February.