



**DIRIDON STATION JOINT POLICY ADVISORY BOARD**

March 18, 2011

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Diridon Station Joint Policy Advisory Board (“Committee”) was called to order at 3:08 p.m. by Chairperson Reed in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, County Government Center, 70 West Hedding Street, San José, California.

**1. ROLL CALL**

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>
Jim Beall	Ex-Officio	Present
Tom Blalock	Member	Absent
Rod Diridon, Sr.	Member	Present
Ash Kalra	Member	Absent
Sam Liccardo	Member	Absent
Pierluigi Oliverio	Member	Present
Chuck Reed	Chairperson	Present
Ken Yeager	Vice Chairperson	Present

**A quorum was present.**

Member Diridon stated the High Speed Rail (HSR) Authority has issued a letter authorizing him to continue to represent them on the Committee. He will provide the letter to staff.

**2. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

There were no Public Presentations.

**3. Minutes of December 17, 2010**

M/S/C (Yeager/Oliverio) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2010.

**4. Assembly Bill (AB) 31: California High-Speed Rail Act**

Scott Haywood, Senior Policy Analyst, gave a brief overview of the proposed legislation introduced by California State Assembly Member Jim Beall and recommended the Committee and each agency represented on the Committee send a letter of endorsement for AB 31 to Assembly Member Beall.

**NOTE:** M/S/C MEANS MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED AND, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ex-Officio Member Beall spoke to the importance of the proposed legislation. He noted AB 31 opens the door for: 1) master planning; 2) financing through infrastructure-financing districts; 3) high-density development; 4) transit-oriented development; and 5) air quality improvement.

Jim Lawson, Executive Policy Advisor and Staff Liaison, reported that staff would prepare a supporting letter from the Committee and deliver it to Chairperson Reed for his signature.

**M/S/C (Diridon/Yeager)** to receive an update and endorse Assembly Bill (AB) 31: California High-Speed Rail Act.

## **5. Update on Caltrain Financial and Service Issues**

Mr. Lawson reported: 1) Caltrain identified a \$30 million operating shortfall in its projected 2012 fiscal operating budget; 2) A \$30 million shortfall thus necessitates certain reductions in Caltrain service; 3) The Caltrain Board held public meetings in Santa Clara County, San Mateo County and San Francisco County to outline the potential service reductions and fare increases; 4) At its March 3, 2011, meeting the Caltrain Board declared a fiscal emergency; 5) The Silicon Valley Leadership Group held a leadership summit on January 21, 2011, to identify solutions to the Caltrain situation; 6) Friends of Caltrain also held a summit; and 7) Between the two initiatives 75 recommendations were received to help support the Caltrain funding shortfall.

Mr. Lawson reported the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Board of Directors put forth several recommendations to help with the Caltrain funding situation at its March 3, 2011, meeting.

Mr. Lawson then reported that the general managers of the agencies represented on the Caltrain Board, VTA, San Mateo County Transit, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, and the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) met and have decided to focus on a short-term, two-year solution to the operating budget. The next meeting of the general managers is scheduled for March 21, 2011.

**On order of Chairperson Reed** and there being no objection, the Committee received an update on Caltrain Financial and Service Issues.

## **6. Update on Diridon Station Planning Activities**

Dan Leavitt, Deputy Director HSR Authority, provided an update on HSR highlighting: 1) A special HSR board meeting will be held on March 30, 2011, and the primary focus is application for additional federal funds; 2) On April 4, 2011, the HSR Authority board meeting will focus on applying for federal funds recently relinquished by the State of Florida; 3) A policy was adopted by the HSR Board in January for station-area-program-development funding for cities with HSR stations; 4) An additional \$4.5 million in federal funding was granted for the HSR to work with cities and their station-area-development planning; 5) the HSR Board gave its CEO the authority to work with its federal partner to establish the distribution priority; 6) The City of San José (San José) is at the top of the HSR's list for distribution of these newly-released funds, along with the stations in the Central Valley; 7) HSR looks to develop an agreement with San José, with the expectation that it will take several months to complete the paperwork and review by the HSR

Department of General Services; 8) Funding is expected by the beginning of the next fiscal year; 9) The HSR portion of the funding allocated for San José is \$200,000; 10) If San José qualifies for a match, the federal-funding portion would not exceed \$700,000; 11) HSR will start with seven cities, with San José being the biggest among the seven cities; and 12) HSR wants all contractual work completed with the cities in advance of the next fiscal year.

Member Diridon reported: 1) The HSR Authority met with United States Deputy Secretary of Transportation John D. Porcari and Federal Railroad Administration Deputy Administrator Karen Rae to discuss the \$4.5 million in Federal Funding released by the State of Florida; 2) Deputy Secretary Porcari announced that the northeast corridor would also be eligible for the funds; 3) The recently announced \$2.4 billion in HSR funding will be spread throughout the 13 U.S. rail corridors; and 4) California has an advantage because it is asking for matching funds.

Ben Tripousis, Transportation Department, City of San José, reported: 1) San José, in cooperation with VTA and Caltrain, is working on a master plan for the Diridon Station area in order to perform program-level planning as well as to environmentally clear all of the land uses in the surrounding area; 2) A draft preferred plan was presented to the San José City Council (“Council”) for their input on January 25, 2011; 3) The Council scheduled a study session on April 28, 2011, to fully discuss the draft preferred plan and allow time for stakeholder input; 4) From that study session, staff is hoping to receive direction from the Council to begin the environmental clearance process on the preferred plan; 5) The environmental process is expected to be completed within a one-year period; 6) The preferred plan and environmental document would then be brought back to the Council for adoption; 7) Per the Committee’s direction, staff will present the preferred plan to the VTA Board and the Caltrain Joint Powers Board, for their input, following the April 28, 2011, Council study session.

## **7. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ex-Officio Member Beall provided a handout entitled, “Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Seeks Change to Board Structure.” He referenced Assembly Bill 57 (Beall) that would add two voting seats to MTC, to be appointed by the mayors of San José and Oakland.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

**On order of Chairperson Reed** and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan E. Garcia, Board Assistant  
VTA Office of the Board Secretary