

**SAN FRANCISCO TO SAN JOSE
COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP
MEETING SUMMARY
November 1, 2021**

SUMMARY

Introductions & Agenda Review

Joey Goldman, the meeting facilitator, welcomed Community Working Group (CWG) members and thanked them for joining. Joey introduced California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) staff, shared the webinar objectives, and reviewed the agenda.

A participant list is in [Appendix A](#). The presentation is available on the California High-Speed Rail Authority's [website](#).

Boris Lipkin, Northern California Regional Director, introduced Stephen Tu, the Northern California Engagement Manager.

Statewide Updates

Boris Lipkin reported on updates from the statewide program, including construction updates, environmental analysis milestones for project sections in Northern and Southern California, as well as the status of various federal and state funding sources.

Questions, Comments, and Responses

- A CWG member asked about the ROD date and how it was decided.
 - Authority staff responded that we follow a designated process to accomplish the work that sets timelines and forecasts the project's completion. As the project advances timelines are adjusted as necessary to complete the work.
- A CWG member asked if there are specific requirements the Authority must meet to use state funds as a match for federal grants.
 - Authority staff said most federal funding requires matching funds. Traditionally, highway construction qualifies for an 80%-90% match in federal funding, and transit receives up to a 50% match in federal funding. The Authority will have to see the scoring and funding requirements of any new funding programs and what their match requirements might look like. Matching parameters require the Authority to leverage state funds with federal opportunities strategically.
- A CWG member asked if federal funds are earmarked for when they need to be used.
 - Authority staff explained that high-speed rail has previously received funds. The project has spent \$2.5 billion and committed the State's full match. Additionally, \$929 million has been allocated but not spent yet, and the Authority will be reimbursed using federal funds assuming the State's work meets the intent of the funding. Authority staff confirmed that the Authority does not have funds "sitting in a bank account."

Sustainability Report

Meg Cederoth, Director of Planning and Sustainability, presented highlights from the [2021 Sustainability Report: Building an Equitable Future](#). Meg emphasized that the Authority has developed and will continue to implement sustainability practices that inform and affect the planning, siting, designing, construction, mitigation, operation, and maintenance of the high-speed rail system. Meg shared information about the Authority's Platinum-level Envision award, the highest possible award from the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure. She also explained the Authority's approach to recycling construction waste and encouraging development around high-speed rail stations.

Meg shared a summary of the CA High-Speed Rail [2021 Climate Adaptation Plan](#).

Questions, Comments, and Responses

- A CWG member said San Mateo County is vulnerable to rising sea levels and noted the County's current initiatives like OneShoreline and Bay Adapt, a Regional Strategy for a Rising Bay. The member asked whether the Authority is addressing how land use will impact these sea-level rise scenarios
 - Authority staff said they are collaborating with Caltrain to discuss sea-level rise and are familiar with OneShoreline and Bay Adapt.
- A CWG member noted that Millbrae and Redwood City are developing land use plans and asked how the Authority will work with cities to achieve collaborative land use plans and resolve conflicts.

Authority staff replied that they actively work with the station cities along the Caltrain corridor, including Gilroy, San Jose, Millbrae and San Francisco. In each location there is an ongoing dialogue about the Authority's plans for the rail corridor and surrounding development and land uses.

Northern California Updates

Morgan Galli, Northern California Deputy Regional Director, and Rebecca Fleischer, Northern California Outreach Specialist, presented the Northern California update.

Rebecca Fleischer reviewed where the San Francisco to San Jose Project Section is in the environmental process, shared an overview of the public comment period for the Revised/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS), and reported on recent in-person outreach events.

Morgan Galli explained the steps leading up to the release of the Final EIR/EIS and the Authority Board meeting where they will consider approving the Final EIR/EIS and Record of Decision (ROD). Morgan also described what activities will take place after completion of the environmental clearance process, including the changing nature of stakeholder engagement post-ROD, and transition away from the CWG format to other outreach opportunities.

Questions, Comments, and Responses

- A CWG member asked staff about the Authority's work with the Executive Steering Committee of the San Francisco Peninsula Rail Program because they are essential for the completion of the DTX project to the Salesforce Terminal.

- Authority staff indicated that the DTX project is being implemented by the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA). Staff noted that Boris Lipkin is a member of the Executive Steering Committee and that other Authority staff are involved with the Integrated Program Management Team (IPMT) for that project. This group has a six-party Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to bring together key agencies and stakeholders working on the DTX project.
- A CWG member asked for the Authority to share any response to the issues brought up by the City of Brisbane over the light maintenance facility (LMF).
 - Authority staff replied that Brisbane had provided an extensive comment letter and that responses to each comment will be in the Final EIR/EIS. Specifically, Brisbane was interested in other locations for the LMF that had been studied and why the LMF could not be in Gilroy. The Final EIR/EIS will make clear that Gilroy will not work due to various operational and environmental reasons, and these detailed reasons will be in the appendix for Final EIR/EIS. This information has been shared with the City of Brisbane. Authority staff also acknowledged concerns about maintaining direct access for the fire station at all times and that work had been done on this and other issues raised by Brisbane.
- A CWG member asked if the May 2022 Authority Board meeting is the anticipated date for a decision only on the San Jose to Merced Project Section, or if it is also the anticipated ROD for the San Francisco to San Jose Project Section, and if not, when the Authority Board will meet for the San Francisco to San Jose Project Section. They also inquired about the timing of the next CWG meeting.
 - Authority staff responded that for San Jose to Merced, the Final EIR/EIS will be released in February 2022 and the Board meeting to consider the document is planned for March 2022. For San Francisco to San Jose, the Final EIR/EIS will be released in April 2022 and the Board meeting to consider the document is planned for May 2022. The next CWG meeting is scheduled for the week after the final document's release to the public. CWG members will receive a calendar invite a month in advance.
- A CWG member asked if the Authority could confirm there will be a parking lot at Millbrae Station near El Camino.
 - Authority staff explained that there were two designs under consideration for the Millbrae Station. The Preferred Alternative included replacement parking for BART and Caltrain on the west side of the station. Part of the feedback received on the Draft EIR/EIS included a suggestion that replacement parking should not be on the west side due to current and planned land uses. As a result, the Authority created a design variant that does not replace the displaced BART and Caltrain parking and circulated that for public comment in 2021. The Authority has consistently said it is not looking to preclude development and is interested in working with Millbrae on land use at and around the Millbrae Station. The Board of Directors will decide which option (if any) to adopt when the EIR/EIS is finalized.

Partner Update

Brent Tietjen, Government and Community Relations Officer with Caltrain, provided an update on the Caltrain electrification project and its relationship to the California High-Speed Rail Project.

Questions, Comments, and Responses

- A CWG member asked if there are plans to share the LMF in Brisbane.

- Authority staff responded that only high-speed rail use is anticipated for that facility.

Public Comment

- Janet Fogarty commented about why the Authority is building a separate station at Millbrae rather than working within the multimodal station.
- Mark Roest suggested creating a design for a stacked/tiered approach to designing high-speed rail. He proposed having trains travel in two directions with heavy rail above transit and bikes (fast and slow levels), with another level above for pedestrians. On top, there would be a solar canopy. Roest explained this could be done with composite structural geometry and put in with cranes.
- Stephen Rosenblum commented about Palo Alto and asked if there are any plans for the Authority to assist with funding for grade separations.

APPENDIX A – Participants

Community Working Group Members in Attendance	
Affiliation	Name
South Beach, Rincon, Mission Bay Neighborhood Association	Alice Rogers
Redwood City Forward	Anthony Lazarus
Next Path Consulting	Debra Horen
San Mateo County Economic Development Association	Don Cecil
Peninsula Freight Rail Users Group (PFRUG)	Greg Greenway
Burlingame Resident	Joe Baylock
South San Francisco School Board/ SamTrans Citizens Advisory Committee	John Baker
Millbrae Resident	Nathan Chan
Old Quad Residents Association	Patricia Leung
UCSF	Tammy Chan
San Francisco Transit Riders	Thea Selby

Authority Staff: Boris Lipkin, Morgan Galli, Richard Marcus, Rebecca Fleischer, Stephen Tu, James Tung, Phyllis Potter, Meg Cederroth, Michelle Boudreau, Anthony Lopez, Gary Kennerley

Guest presenters: Brent Tietjen

Kearns and West Staff: Joey Goldman, Vidya Bhamidi, CeCe Horbat