

Memorandum

To: Chair and Commissioners

Date: October 11-12, 2006

From: JOHN F. BARNA, JR.
Executive Director

Ref Number:
Book Item 2.1e
Action

Ref: **PROPOSITION 116 PROJECT APPROVAL/AMENDMENT FOR THE PENINSULA CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS BOARD FOR THE PALO ALTO STATION ADA PEDESTRIAN UNDERCROSSING AND PLATFORM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, AMENDING RESOLUTION PA-05-08**

Recommendation:

Commission staff has reviewed the Proposition 116 amended application, as well as subsequent clarifications, and recommends that the Commission approve the attached resolution, which would grant approval of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board's (PCJPB) amended application for an ADA pedestrian undercrossing and platform improvements at the Palo Alto Caltrain Station. Commission staff also recommends that the Commission approve the PCJPB's request for a waiver of the Commission policy that not over five percent of the Proposition 116 funds be used for the pre-construction phase of the project.

Background:

Proposition 116 (PUC Section 99636) authorizes \$173,000,000 to the PCJPB for CalTrain capital improvements and acquisition of rights-of-way as follows:

- (a) In the City and County of San Francisco, \$13,000,000
- (b) In San Mateo County, \$19,000,000
- (c) In Santa Clara County, \$21,000,000, as follows:
 - (1) Existing service from San Jose, \$17,000,000
 - (2) Extension of service south of San Jose to the county line, \$4,000,000
- (d) Acquisition of rights-of-way, \$120,000,000

In August 2005, the Commission approved PA-05-08, which authorized the de-programming of \$2,648,478 for nine projects previously funded due to project completion which resulted in savings.

In August 2006, Commission staff received an application and request for approval for \$1,453,655 of the \$2,648,478 to be used for an ADA undercrossing and platform improvements at the Palo Alto Caltrain Station. The PCJPB has requested a waiver of the Commission's policy regarding a five

percent limitation on preconstruction work. The PCJPB is requesting that \$500,000 in Proposition 116 funds be used for the design phase. To date \$800,000 in federal and local funding has already been expended for design work. The approval of this waiver will allow the PCJPB to complete the preconstruction work needed by December 2006 to allow for the advertisement, bid opening and construction contract award to allow construction to begin by July 2007.

Although grade separated pedestrian undercrossings are provided at the station, they do not meet ADA requirements. An ADA compliant at-grade crossing exists on the far north side of the station, but it is considered a temporary facility. The California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has mandated that it be removed as the permit for this temporary facility expires in October 2007. The PUC has indicated that they will consider a one year extension to October 2008. Assuming approval of the one-year extension, an ADA compliant grade separated crossing must be completed and opened for operation by October 2008. In order to ensure that the Palo Alto Station remains ADA compliant, the JCJPB has embarked on a project to provide a permanent grade-separated ADA compliant pedestrian undercrossing. In addition, the surface of the platforms at the station have become uneven and are in need of replacement.

The PCJPB recently completed a study to determine the most cost effective and feasible access solution for providing a permanent ADA compliant grade-separated undercrossing at the station. The alternative that was selected was to retrofit the existing undercrossing at the center of the station. The existing tunnel portal structures on the north and south-bound platforms and the tunnel underneath the platforms and tracks at this undercrossing will be retrofitted. This work will occur in conjunction with the replacement of the station platforms, which are in need of replacement. The retrofit of the existing undercrossing will include: the addition of new ramps to the south and northbound platforms; reconfiguration of parking, landscaping, irrigation and drainage improvements with retrofit work associated with new ramps; stair and tunnel portal modifications; enlargement of the entrances to the tunnel for better pedestrian circulation; addition of skylights and new lighting to improve safety. In order to effectively cure defects in the platform walking surface, the existing platforms will be demolished and replaced with new 800 foot long outside boarding platforms. Existing platform furnishings and utilities, such as ticket vending machines, public address and visual messaging systems, benches and trash receptacles will be relocated as part of the reconstruction of the platforms.

The proposed ADA grade-separated pedestrian crossing and platform improvements at the Palo Alto Caltrain Station will improve access for all transit riders to Caltrain and other connecting travel modes, and will help maintain Caltrain's existing service levels and ensure the safe, reliable and ADA compliant service is maintained at the station.

Attachment

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Commission Project Application Approval Amendment
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
Proposition 116 Application for
ADA Pedestrian Undercrossing and Platform Improvements
at the Palo Alto CalTrain Station

Resolution PA-06-
Amending Resolution #PA-05-08

- 1.1 WHEREAS, in June 1990 the voters approved Proposition 116, the Clean Air and Transportation Improvement Act, for \$1.99 billion for rail and mass transportation purposes; and
- 1.2 WHEREAS, the California Transportation Commission is designated in Proposition 116 to oversee the five grant programs over the 20-year term of the Proposition; and
- 1.3 WHEREAS, Proposition 116 calls for the Commission to establish an application process and to develop and adopt guidelines to implement those programs; and
- 1.4 WHEREAS, Proposition 116 establishes as a purpose of the application process that it "facilitate implementation of improved cost-effective transit service to the maximum number of Californians and to prevent the funds provided for by this part from being spent on needlessly costly features"; and
- 1.5 WHEREAS, the financial plans include a back-up funding plan, should the project exceed the cost approved by the Commission and that increased costs shall be covered by funds other than Proposition 116; and
- 1.6 WHEREAS, the Commission has established a Hazardous Waste Identification and Clean-up Policy (#G-91-2) that requires the local agency to have performed full due diligence in identifying the hazardous waste in the right-of-way and easements and properties as well as clean-up, and that the state has been indemnified from clean-up liability of damages, both present and future; and
- 1.7 WHEREAS, in December 1990 the Commission adopted policy and application guidelines (#G-90-23) for the Proposition 116 rail program; and
- 1.8 WHEREAS, Proposition 116 (PUC Section 99636) authorizes \$173,000,000 to the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board for CalTrain capital improvements and acquisition of rights-of-way as follows:

Resolution PA-06-____, Amending
Resolution PA-05-08

- (a) In the City and County of San Francisco, \$13,000,000
 - (b) In San Mateo County, \$19,000,000
 - (c) In Santa Clara County, \$21,000,000, as follows:
 - (1) Existing service from San Jose, \$17,000,000
 - (2) Extension of service south of San Jose to the county line, \$4,000,000
 - (d) Acquisition of rights-of-way, \$120,000,000; and
- 1.9 WHEREAS, in August 2005, the Commission approved PA-05-08 deprogramming \$2,648,478 for nine projects previously funded due to project completion that resulted in project savings; and;
- 1.10 WHEREAS, in August 2006, the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board submitted an amended application requesting that \$1,453,655 of the \$2,648,478 be used for an ADA pedestrian undercrossing and platform improvements at the Palo Alto CalTrain Station; and
- 1.11 WHEREAS, the August 2006, Proposition 116 application from the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board requested a waiver of the Commission's policy of a 5% limitation for project development costs in the amount of \$500,000; and
- 1.12 WHEREAS, the August 2006, Proposition 116 amended application from the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, including all supplemental information, has been reviewed by Commission staff, and appears to meet all the basic requirements as specified in Proposition 116 and the Commission's policies and guidelines; and
- 2.1 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby approves the application from the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board for \$1,453,655 in Proposition 116 (PUC Sections 99636(a), (b) and (c) for an ADA pedestrian undercrossing and platform improvements at the Palo Alto CalTrain Station; and
- 2.2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby waives its policy of the 5% limitation of Proposition 116 funds for project development activities thereby allowing the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board to expend \$500,000 of Proposition 116 funds on project development work; and
- 2.3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Resolution PA-05-08 is hereby amended.