



**HSR**

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## HSR City Council Committee

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### Members

Patrick Burt  
Larry Klein  
Nancy Shepherd  
Gail Price

### Special Meeting

Thursday, May 6, 2010  
8:30 am – 10:00 am  
Council Conference Room  
Civic Center  
250 Hamilton Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA

### Minutes

Mayor Burt will arrive late.

#### 1. Oral Communications

Public Comment: Jerry Carlson said he recently met with High Speed Rail Authority members. The public feels unsatisfied with the answers they received – the overall sentiment was either do it right or do not build HSR at all. He also said he went to a meeting yesterday pertaining to electrification and if HSR falls through, Caltrain will still start work on the corridor.

Chair Klein said the Committee would move to item #6 on the agenda and call Ravi Mehta.

#### 6. Discussion of Strategic Legislation/Strategic Policy issues

CM Shepherd asked Ravi Mehta if he had anything to highlight for the Committee.

Mr. Mehta said the two most critical bills currently in the legislature are AB 289 and AB 1375 – there are no other amendments to the legislation.

CM Price asked what Mr. Mehta is specifically doing (strategically) to represent our concerns.

Mr. Mehta responded that he is talking to legislators and their staff to try and get amendments incorporated and kill certain bills. The legislators are finally starting to awaken – HSR is starting to come to the forefront for them.



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CM Price asked what the biggest concern is right now.

Mr. Mehta answered the two bills he mentioned earlier and the budget. We need to keep the HSRA from getting all their funding.

Mr. Emslie asked if there is any intelligence on the new Executive of the HSRA.

Mr. Mehta responded that the announcement might come later today.

Chair Klein asked what initiatives could we urge our legislators to introduce.

Mr. Mehta said Senator Simitian is less inclined to convince which specific corridor to use; there are environmental versus political concerns. Both legislators feel like working with the peer review committee is a good idea – they are willing to look at the makeup of the Authority.

Mayor Burt arrived at the meeting.

CM Price asked if there is any sense of urgency on the legislator's behalf in terms of saving Caltrain.

Mr. Mehta said there isn't any. The only people that care about Caltrain are the legislators that represent the respective communities impacted.

Rita Wespi asked if there is any consideration to encourage other Senators and Assembly members when modifying bills.

Mr. Mehta said absolutely yes. He is looking at others as well; the focus more recently are our legislators since they will be more of a driving force in the bills we care about.

Mayor Burt stated we do not know if HSR and Caltrain can co-exist from a design-standpoint for the Peninsula. It is very crucial that Senator Simitian help Caltrain.



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Mr. Mehta agreed. He said both Assembly member Hill and Senator Simitian suggested the City draft some legislation. We should draft legislation with our own language.

Chair Klein said we should obtain a copy of the language Caltrain is suggesting.

Mr. Mehta said he would work on it.

Mayor Burt said we need to make sure we focus on two types of funding.

CM Price confirmed Mayor Burt was referring to capital and operational.

Chair Klein asked if there were any concerns as to who is working on the funding. He moved to address these issues. Mayor Burt seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion passed.

Mayor Burt moved to obtain any draft legislation that pertains to funding of Caltrain through HSR funds. Chair Klein seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion passed.

Mayor Burt said as a third piece of legislation, we could propose for cities along the Peninsula to be compensated financially.

Chair Klein agreed we should be reimbursed; however, if pursue this, then the whole process will become all about money.

CM Shepherd stated some communities have the ability to do this and others do not – we need to keep that in mind.

### 2. Approval of Minutes from April 15, 2010

Chair Klein stated that CM Shepherd submitted comments to change the minutes. He said the Committee would defer these minutes for approval.



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### 3. Timeline for Alternatives Analysis Comments

Gayle Likens said there are two community meetings: one on May 18 at JLS Middle School, and one on May 20 at Jordan Middle School. There is also an upcoming meeting with the Planning Commission. We have a very compressed timeline.

CM Shepherd asked Ms. Likens if she could describe the outreach being done on these meetings.

Ms. Likens said we are doing similar outreach as we did for the Program EIR – sending out notices, utilizing the media, web site, etc. Outreach will go out next week.

CM Shepherd asked what the order of the meetings would be.

Mr. Emslie answered they will follow a fairly traditional format. We will have our consultant do a presentation – it will have an informal conversation aspect to it.

Chair Klein stated the May 20 City Council HSR Committee meeting should be scheduled for two and a half hours, starting at 8 a.m.

Rita Wespi stated we need to do whatever it takes to get broad community engagement at these meetings. Without certain pieces of significant information, we are working in the dark. We should draft a letter.

Mayor Burt moved to draft a letter to the PRP and the HSRA and copy individual members of the board and legislators. This letter would identify major elements and major outstanding issues so that we can respond to the Alternatives Analysis effectively. Chair Klein seconded the motion. No vote taken.

Chair Klein stated the Committee should meet next week to continue this item and all other items on this agenda.

CM Price said she would not be able to make it.



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Chair Klein stated the Corridor Study item should be placed on next week's agenda as well.

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