



City of Palo Alto

City Council Rail Committee Staff Report

(ID # 7005)

Report Type: Action Items

Meeting Date: 5/25/2016

Summary Title: Caltrain Electrification Project Update

Title: Caltrain Electrification Status and Schedule

From: City Manager

Lead Department: Public Works

Recommendation

This is an informational report and no action is required.

Background and Discussion

The Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project (PCEP) consists of converting Caltrain from diesel-fueled to electrically-powered trains for service between the 4th and King Street Station in San Francisco and the Tamien Station in San Jose.

The project will install facility improvements, including overhead catenary wires, support poles, traction power facilities, and other appurtenances necessary for converting the diesel-locomotive driven trains to Electric Multiple Units (EMUs). EMUs are self-propelled trains that do not have a separate locomotive. EMUs can accelerate and decelerate at faster rates than diesel-powered trains, even with longer trains.

On February 11, 2016, City staff met with the Peninsula Joint Powers Board (JPB) project team who provided a program overview, update, and a schedule of next steps. The PCEP will be constructed through a design-build contract that is scheduled for award in late Summer or early Fall of 2016. Construction is anticipated to start in the Spring of 2017 with 'revenue service' beginning in 2020.

Specific to the City Palo Alto, preliminary design anticipates the following elements within the City:

- 1) Overhead Contact System (OCS) poles;
- 2) Stringing wire for OCS; requires temporary at-grade crossing street closures;
- 3) Construction of a Traction Power Facility (TPF); and
- 4) Staging areas.

The PCEP will be relying on Federal funding for financing; the deadline for obtaining these funds is the end of calendar year 2016. Federal funding is partially reliant on the JPB executing comprehensive agreements with the agencies the PCEP will impact. JPB has a number of agreements already completed and is now working to complete agreements with the remaining entities.

On Thursday, May 12, the City received the draft 'Comprehensive Agreement between the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board and City of Palo Alto Relating to the Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project'. The purpose of the agreement is to memorialize the Parties' consultation and cooperation, designate respective rights and obligations, and ensure cooperation between the JPB and the City in connection with the design and construction of the PCEP. The draft agreement is currently under review by City staff and a meeting between the City and the Peninsula Joint Powers Board project team will take place in the second week of June to go over comments before review by the respective attorneys. Staff will bring the agreement to Council for discussion and approval. The anticipated date to execute this agreement is late Summer.

Environmental Review

The JPB certified conformance with CEQA and certified the Final Environmental Impact Report for the project on January 8, 2015; no environmental review is needed by the City to enter into the comprehensive PCEP agreement.