



Minutes
Town of Atherton
Joint Meeting of the
City Council & Rail Committee
January 9, 2019
4:00 P.M.
Holbrook-Palmer Park Pavilion
150 Watkins Ave
Atherton, California
Special Meeting

Mayor Widmer called the meeting to order at 4pm.

Conlon arrived at 4:10pm

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA

1. DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK REGARDING THE CALTRAIN BUSINESS PLAN, FUTURE TRAIN SERVICE IN ATHERTON, AND RAIL POLICY

Report: Public Works Director Robert Ovadia

Recommendation: Discuss and provide feedback regarding the Caltrain Business Plan (currently under development), service scenarios alternatives at the Atherton Caltrain Station, and Rail Policy in Atherton

Description: This item involves discussion of the Caltrain Business Plan (currently under development), which includes various service scenarios alternatives along the corridor, and their potential impacts to the Town of Atherton. The Council and Rail Committee will discuss the type and level of service options for train service in Atherton, which may include restoration of weekday service or permanent closure of the station. The Council and Rail Committee will also discuss potential improvements around the station and along the corridor to accommodate such service and may discuss grade separation. Discussions will also include the likelihood of state mandated land-use along transportation corridors, including existing and proposed legislation. The Council may also discuss the Town's current Rail Related Policy document and may suggest changes to the Policy to be considered at a future meeting.

Mayor Widmer thanked Ovadia for the detailed report. Widmer noted that staff is looking for feedback on the Caltrain Business Plan and comment on service at the Atherton Caltrain station.

Public Works Director Ovadia summarized his report and provided a presentation. His presentation included a review of the Business Plan, the future of the Atherton station including service and improvements, and a review of the rail policy.

Ovadia noted that the Business Plan projects a demand of up to 240,000 riders per day in 2040, including approximately peak passenger ridership of 8,000 – 10,000 for the northbound AM/southbound PM commute. To meet this demand, Caltrain forecasts that they would need to

operate eight 10-car trains or twelve 8-car trains per hour, per direction. This projection does not include High-Speed Rail capacity to serve the demand. Caltrain presented seven service concepts ranging from twelve (12) to sixteen (16) trains per hour per direction, inclusive of four (4) HSR trains per hour per direction. Previous presentations indicated a headway of a little as two minutes in each direction during peak periods.

There was discussion that the projected growth and ridership numbers in Atherton are not accurate as illustrated within the business plan.

Further discussion was held in relation to SB50 that addresses housing development along the transportation corridor. California and the San Francisco Bay area are experiencing a shortage in housing and affordable housing. According to the League of California Cities, State housing officials estimate that 180,000 homes need to be built each year to keep pace with population growth. Over the past decade, on average, less than half that number have been constructed annually. Legislation has passed and continues to be discussed at the State level and more recently at the regional level to encourage housing, particularly high-density housing, along transit corridors and near transit stations.

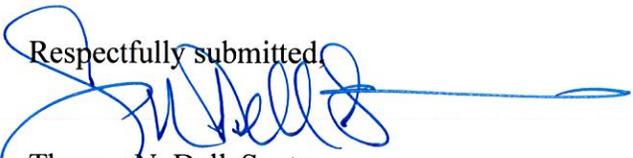
The Council asked that staff return with a recommendation to form an Ad Hoc Council Committee to meet and work with State and Regional Elected Officials and address the Town's concerns and opportunities for housing along the transportation corridor. Formation of this Ad Hoc Committee will be presented to the Council for consideration at the February 20 Council Meeting.

Further, the Council requested that the Rail Committee consider the discussion held, the feedback of the Council and provide the City Council with a recommendation on amendments to the Rail Policy that reflects desired service levels at the station (which could range from weekend only, restoration of weekday service, or elimination of service).

ADJOURN

Mayor Widmer adjourned the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Theresa N. DellaSanta
City Clerk