



Staff Report

REVISED RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EXPANSION OF AND SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS TO TRANSIT SERVICE

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Summary

At the March 27, 2007 City Council meeting, the City Council considered Council Member Dickenson's request to adopt a resolution on local train service. After much discussion, the City Council by motion verbally modified and revised the draft resolution. The resolution with amendments was approved.

The purpose of this report is to confirm with the Council the final resolution language adopted March 27 supporting expansion of and safety enhancements to transit service.

Background

Since 2000, Caltrain stops at the Belmont station have declined 24% from 68 daily stops to 52 per day as of February 2007. In San Mateo County, daily Caltrain stops has declined by 20% over this same time period. With 16 fewer daily stops in Belmont than in 2000, it has become more difficult for Belmont residents to conveniently utilize the Caltrain system. Oracle is now diverting its van pools to San Carlos and Hillsdale stations in spite of the fact that Belmont is the closest station to the Oracle campus. In 2005, Caltrain instituted a new "Baby Bullet" train express service. Since 2005, average weekday ridership on the Caltrain system has increased 13%, but service in Belmont has not benefited from the Baby Bullet schedule revisions of 2005.

Discussion

Council Member Dickenson, working with a coalition of elected officials from San Mateo County has participated in the development of the original resolution encouraging Caltrain to seriously consider retaining an outside train scheduling consultant to develop and evaluate alternative train schedules that would provide additional local service within the County. Before the Council tonight is the revised resolution based on the discussion at your March 27 meeting.

Caltrain staff disputed the data contained herein and spoke to the matter at the March 27 City Council meeting. As a result, the City Council removed the disputed data from the resolution you finally approved.

General Plan/Vision Statement

Vision Statement – We put a priority on getting out of, into, and through town efficiently.

Fiscal Impact

Approximately \$1 mil per year in City of Belmont Measure A Transportation sales tax funds are allocated to Caltrain operations. With voter approval, these funds would otherwise be available for road and street repair in Belmont.

Public Contact

- Publication and posting of City Council agenda.
- Feature articles in local newspapers.

Recommendation

It is recommended that City Council approve the amended resolution attached

Alternatives

1. Take no action on the suggested resolution
2. Amend the resolution

Attachments

- A. Resolution requested by Council Member Dickenson and as amended by the City Council at your March 27 Council meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Jack R. Crist
City Manager

Staff Contact:

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RESOLUTION ____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF BELMONT
SUPPORTING EXPANSION OF AND
SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS TO TRANSIT SERVICE**

WHEREAS, Caltrain service in San Mateo County has been reduced since 2000; and

WHEREAS, the City of Belmont contributes approximately \$ 1 million annually to Caltrain from Measure A funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Belmont has lost 16 daily Caltrain stops since 2000; and

WHEREAS, the reduction in Caltrain service at many stations has made it more difficult for many riders to use Caltrain; and

WHEREAS, the substantial reduction of Caltrain service has had a significant negative economic impact upon properties near Caltrain stations; and

WHEREAS, increased Caltrain service is necessary to support and encourage transit-oriented development; and

WHEREAS, the growing senior population of San Mateo County will necessitate further dependence upon mass transit; and

WHEREAS, additional connections to Caltrain by shuttles and SamTrans buses are needed to encourage transit ridership; and

WHEREAS, safety along the rail corridor is a growing concern; and

WHEREAS, the City of Belmont desires to encourage greater availability and use of mass transit to address the climate change crisis and to facilitate the needs of its citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Belmont hereby resolves:

1. That the City of Belmont suggests Caltrain retain an outside scheduling consultant to develop and evaluate alternative train schedules that would provide a better balance between local service and express train service within the County, in order to meet the needs of more passengers.
2. That, in order to better serve local needs, the cities be provided the opportunity to review and comment on the alternative schedules so developed.
3. That Caltrain complete with all due diligence the safety improvements planned within the County.
4. That Caltrain, SamTrans, and the cities work together to develop and evaluate additional and improved means of connectivity between transit services.

* * * * *

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Belmont at a regular meeting thereof held on April 10, 2007 by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

NOES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSTAIN, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSENT, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

CLERK of the City of Belmont

APPROVED:

MAYOR of the City of Belmont