

**Report from the TA Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting of May 4, 2021**

The TA CAC meeting held on May 4 was chaired by John Fox due to Chair Barbara Arietta's inability to access Internet via cell phone service. Chair Arietta did participate by calling in from a landline.

The committee met online via a Zoom meeting with TA staff. The CAC heard presentations and reviewed reports, and there were both informational items as well as agenda items requiring a motion with roll call vote.

The informational items were

- CAC Item 4 - public comments for items not on the agenda, there were no such comments
- TA Board item 10b - Federal Advocacy Update

Amy Linehan sketched the broader picture and the ongoing activities in transportation program planning, there is "lots going on, lots of opportunities, also lots of advocacy". Advocacy here includes direct lobbying, and there was some discussion at the CAC about big projects such as Dumbarton rail - might this be appropriate for an advocacy effort?

- TA Board Item 11(a) Quarterly Update on the San Mateo 101 Express Lanes Project

Leo Scott gave a presentation, illustrating significant progress. Because of the COVID pandemic, reduced 101 traffic has allowed more construction hours, so actually more progress (55% completion) than calendar time (43% time). The project funding is still showing adequate contingency, though there are some new and uncertain risks surfacing regarding utility work and some buried concrete material being uncovered during excavations. There are many photos in the presentation, there are also online videos to watch on the project web pages.

- TA Board Item 11(b) Program Report 25th Ave Grade Separation Project

The CAC heard from Michelle Bouchard, who explained her new role at Caltrain, and emphasized her goals to bring increased communications and public transparency to the agency. She then introduced Rob Barnard. Rob comes to Caltrain after a long career in transit development and architectural planning, most recently in Portland. Rob gave a presentation on the near completion of the 25th Avenue grade separation project, which includes three underpasses as well as a new relocated station platform. The CAC wanted to review the community concerns with the bicycle cross traffic at 28th Avenue the original design had very poor coordination for bicycle traffic, as discussed at several earlier CAC and special topical project meetings. There is still community concern that a true marked bike lane should be implemented now at 28th, rather than marking sharrows and exploring a future designated bike lane. There was public comment on the project design, that included the importance of letting the public review the station and access designs, offer suggestions while still in planning, rather than at the end of the project when it is a fait accompli.

- TA board item 11(c) Short range Highway Plan Update

We had a presentation from Patrick Gilster on the plan, this has been ongoing for over a year is headed towards the plan and report adoption in June. The plan has various metrics to identify

projects with value rankings. The planning allows estimates for the expected increases in population, local jobs, and continually evolving commute habits and patterns.

- TA board Item 12(a) Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2022

We had a discussion with Derek Hansel, the sales tax revenues are picking up as the post-COVID economy starts to resurface.

- TA board item 5(a) Approval of Minutes of the Board of directors Meeting of April 1, 2021

There were no comments or suggested edits.

There were agenda items requiring a motion and vote.

- Approval of CAC Minutes from March 30, 2021

Minutes were approved without edits or additions.

- TA Board Item 10(a) State and Federal Legislative Update, and Approval of Support for AB1499

Amy Linehan gave a summary of the ongoing developments with new transit funding possibilities, invest opportunities and the possible future path for federal and state legislation. The new administration priorities, including climate change mitigation and transportation, may offer new opportunities. The CAC had discussion about the role that "earmarks" might play in the near and long term. For the TA, the 101/92 direct connector might be designated for funding this way. AB1499 was understood as allowing increased flexibility for the TA and contractors on projects, the CAC had a question "Is there any potential downside for the State or TA if this bill is passed?" The answer was no. The Motion of support passed unanimously.

- TA Board Item 5(b) Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for period ending March 31, 2021

There was very limited discussion due to the late hour, the Motion passed unanimously. Vice-Chair Fox encouraged the CAC to examine the statements and pass any questions to staff through Joe Hurley.

- TA board Item 5(c) Acceptance of Quarterly Investment report and Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook for Period Ending March 31, 2021

There was a brief discussion about interest rates, the expectations as the economy improves, and the plans for the TA investments. The Motion passed unanimously. Vice-Chair Fox encouraged the CAC to examine the reports and pass any questions to staff through Joe Hurley.

The meeting concluded with

- Report of the Chair

Barbara Arietta had her comments on local transportation developments and encouraged the CAC to participate in upcoming workshops.

- Report from Staff

Joe Hurley reported for the TA.

- Report from Members
- Karen Kuklin reported on attending the Reimagine SamTrans workshop. There are several in the future, and she encouraged the CAC to participate. Rich Hedges had several thoughts on encouraging more transit ridership as the pandemic eases, he is particularly aware of public perceptions of safety. He thinks the BART system is not doing a good job addressing safety concerns and this may impact future ridership numbers.

Thanks were expressed to all the meeting presenters, as well as Jean Brook for her consistent skill keeping the Zoom meeting running smoothly.

Submitted May 6, 2021

John D. Fox

TA CAC Vice Chair