

**Report from the TA Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting of August 4, 2020**

The TA CAC meeting held on August 4 was chaired by John Fox due to Chair Barbara Arietta's inability to access Internet and 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:

- TA Board Item 10(a) San Mateo County US 101 Express Lanes Project Quarterly Update

The CAC heard a presentation from Leo Scott, the express lane project continues on track. There were discussions on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, potential budget and schedule risks.

- TA Board Item 10(b) Measure A Pedestrian and Bicycle Program Update

The CAC heard a presentation from Jennifer Williams on the changes to the Ped and Bike programs, which now include both Measure A and measure W funds. The presentation had examples of constructed projects, and highlighted the growth and importance of this program which benefits bike commuters, recreational cyclists, pedestrian access to commercial and recreational facilities, as well as Safe Routes to School programs of importance for children and schools.

- TA Board Item 10 (c) Pedestrian and Bicycle Program Call for Projects for FY 2021 and 2022

The CAC heard a presentation from Peter Skinner on the upcoming Call for Projects, which will open in August and close in September. The criteria in scoring these projects has continued to evolve each cycle, and the discussion followed the efforts to balance geographical diversity, impact on transportation needs, value of the project, etc. TA staff are hosting a Zoom informational session as outreach to potential project submitters. It was generally agreed that this outreach helps generate higher quality and more useful proposals. CAC members were encouraged to outreach to their local contacts in cities and schools to make sure a wide community could learn about the upcoming call and what they can do to make a successful proposal.

- TA Board Item 11 (c) Review of the Preliminary Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

The CAC heard a presentation from Jeannie Chen, there was considerable discussion on the impact of the COVID pandemic on sales tax revenues. It is clear that there is impact, the questions were on how big the impact might be, and when the numbers would be known, as there have been extensions on tax reporting deadlines for second quarter.

- TA Board Item 5 (d) Information on Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending June 30, 2020

This informational item really must wait until November when a report will be available to review.

- TA Board Item 5(a) Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of July 9, 2020

There were agenda items requiring a motion and vote.

- Approval of Minutes from July 7, 2020

Minutes were approved without edits by a majority with several committee members who were not at the meeting voting "Abstain"

- TA Board Item 10 (d) State and Federal Legislative Update and Approval of Legislative Proposals

This request to approve a legislative proposal to seek exemptions for special transportation projects from the California CEQA requirements generated the most discussion of the meeting. While TA staff, through Joe Hurley, explained the motivation for this proposal, several on the CAC felt that there was a purpose and rationale for doing reviews using the CEQA process, and that exempting projects from this review set a poor example and bad precedent. Several CAC members voted to not approve the proposal, 8 did approve, so the motion passed. TA staff sought the reasons the CAC members voted NO, and this was a constructive discussion.

- TA Board Item 11(a) Establishing the Appropriations Limit for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021

This motion passed Unanimously after brief discussion.

- TA Board Item 11 (b) Call for a Public Hearing at the September 3, 2020 Meeting on the Preliminary Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

Motion passed Unanimously

- TA Board Item 5 (b) Acceptance of Quarterly Investment Report and Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook for the Period Ending June 30, 2020

There was discussion on the interest rate environment, and all were glad to learn our returns were much better than our benchmark last quarter. The CAC heard about the transition to the new financial management company. The Motion passed Unanimously.

- TA Board Item 5 (c) Adoption of Updated San Mateo County Transportation Authority Conflict of Interest Code

Motion passed Unanimously

The meeting concluded with

- Report of the Chair

Barbara Arietta reported on the situation with Caltrain funding, the need to have multiple counties agree in a very short timeframe on issues of oversight and funding.

- Report from Staff

Joe Hurley reported for the TA.

Submitted August 5, 2020

John D. Fox

TA CAC Vice Chair